THE DAILY COMPANION

With Cordial and sincere
Appreciation of the pleasant
entertainment in your
home. - during Conference
June 15-20 1943

David E. Hill
and Marion

To Mrs Ida Curnow
and daughter.

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THE
DAILY
COMPANION

THE DAILY COMPANION

Readings Through the Year from the Moffatt Bible

JAMES MOFFATT

HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS
New York and London

THE DAILY COMPANION

READINGS THROUGH THE YEAR FROM THE MOFFATT BIBLE

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INTRODUCTION

One of the most arresting features about religious trends in these latter days is the enormous stress which is again being placed upon devotional exercises; not as possessing any intrinsic merit in themselves (an error about them which has been made often enough, and brought them into disrepute) but for their practical effect upon life and conduct. So true is this, that people who are theoretically confused or doubtful about the central affirmations of Christian faith are to be found practising the historic methods of Christian culture, solely for the results they yield in the realm of personal development. I remember interviewing a young journalist, some time ago, in connection with some inquiries I was trying to make into the religious convictions of a cross-section of the people in the modern world. He was an energetic and ambitious newspaper reporter, and he gave a breezy opening to the conversation by telling me that he was an agnostic, and could form no conception of what people meant when they talked about God. From that the discussion turned to the life and example of Christ, and I expected that he would expatiate upon the difference between Christ and His followers to-day, and that I should be told, as I had been told so many times before, that what was wanted in the modern world was a little less psalm-singing and a little more practical Christianity. Instead of which he quite casually told me that the secret of Christ's strength and courage was to be found in His use of prayer. When I said that it was a misfortune for the agnostic to be cut away from that particular source of moral power, he interrupted me to say that I was labouring under an egregious error; that an agnostic *could* pray, and that he himself, although he was uncertain about most of the things proclaimed in the Churches, prayed regularly. I cannot pretend to give his exact words, but he said in effect that prayer for him meant a kind of meditation, the bringing into the focus of consciousness every fine and desirable attribute of personal character, and claiming them as his own. He added, that whatever was best in his own life could be traced to this habit.

If inquiry were made, I believe that it would prove that this young man was far from singular in maintaining the technique of Christian devotion, whilst being theologically confused. My immediate purpose in referring to him, however, is to emphasize the folly of being theologically sure (I will not say cocksure) and at the same time neglecting the devotional practices by which the finest elements in Christian character have been built up. Yet this is surely the more common, as it is the far less excusable error. The saying of a famous convert to Rome, that Catholics could live in an atmosphere of religion without once opening the New Testament or uttering a private prayer, might to-day be applied to Protestants, many of whom are content with belonging to the Right Church and holding the Correct Views, whilst ignoring the "private means of grace" (to give them their time-honoured name) by which an abstract faith might be translated into something practical in the sphere of character. In this connection it might be said that practice does not only make perfect, but makes any kind of spiritual development possible. The great Polish musician, who once renounced the piano to serve his country as her President, has again eschewed the practice of his art until the liberation of his country is achieved. It would be a great mistake to imagine that when the day comes he will simply have to unlock his instrument to liberate his pent-up genius. It was the same Paderewski who said that if he stopped practising the piano for a day, he noticed the difference, if he stopped for two days his family noticed the difference, if he stopped for three days his friends noticed the difference, and if he stopped for a week the public noticed the difference. . . .

There is a lamentable gap between Christian ideals and the daily life of Christian people, and indeed between social beliefs and conduct generally. To suppose that the disparity will be abolished by new forms of social organization, is like supposing that the musician will be able to compensate for his lack of practice by getting a new piano. To say this does not ignore the fact that there are times when drastic changes in the social order are demanded, just as there are times when it will be necessary for the maestro to procure a new piano. Indeed, the more he practises his art, the more sensitive will his ear become to discords, and the more dissatisfied will he be with a faulty instrument. None the less, the quality of his public performances

will not depend solely or even mainly upon the perfection of his instrument, but upon the time and labour he has devoted to the private culture of his inborn gift for music; and it may be similarly claimed that, whilst changes in the social instrument are long overdue, the essential quality of human life depends upon the private nurture of our inborn capacity for spiritual growth, and no amount of public reform can take its place.

It is the recognition of this truth, I take it, which, after many years devoted to the discussion of theological beliefs and social problems, is sending so many thoughtful Protestants back to the devotional exercises which from the beginning have been an integral element in Christian living. And it is in the hope that it may have some modest part in this vital movement, that this book has been compiled.

It is, as a glance will show, a collection of meditations, arranged to cover the morning and evening of each day in the year, the material for which has been drawn from Dr. Moffatt's translation of the Bible. The great value of Dr. Moffatt's version is now so widely acknowledged, and its popularity so firmly established, that upon that head little need be said here. Its use in the present instance springs from the desire to offer in a form which will be free from ambiguity of language, and which will challenge the faith and conscience of the reader to-day, the essential teaching of the Bible regarding the high spiritual value of human life and destiny.

There are two aspects of the life spiritual, described by Jesus as faith and fruit; communion with God which issues in moral conduct; receptivity to the unseen world which conditions action in the world of human relationships. From God Himself, as the source and centre of all spiritual life and energy, we receive the longing and the power to reach that quality of life which Jesus described as Sonship; and this expresses itself in our daily commerce with our neighbours. The meditations have accordingly been designed to cover these two main aspects of the Christian life. The morning passages gather up the Christian teaching about human conduct, the love and treatment of friends and enemies alike, with which we should check our current actions and from which we may draw our inspiration for the day which is about to commence. The evening passages bring to mind the abiding convictions and age-old experience of the love and care of God, upon which

all Christian living in the final analysis must rest, and to which we may turn for comfort and renewal after the mental strains and moral tensions of the day.

It need scarcely be said that these meditations are not intended to take the place of the Bible itself. It is hoped, indeed, that whether in Dr. Moffatt's translation, or in some one of the other versions, the reader will be prompted to seek and study in their context the passages of which the meditations are composed, and that they will thus become an aid to the wider study of the Bible. Their essential purpose, however, is to bring the reader into the presence of the great affirmations of the Bible, which have been tested by twenty centuries of Christian living, that he may thus, in penitence sometimes, in confidence always, be brought into the presence of God Himself.

As I began by referring to an agnostic, perhaps I may without impertinence end with a word of advice to any who are confused or uncertain in matters of religious belief or moral conduct. If this book should fall into the hands of any such, and he or she is moved to read it, may I suggest that it should not be viewed as a series of dogmatic pronouncements about the way one *must* live, and the things one *must* believe, as though Christianity were a kind of moral and mental strait-jacket for the constriction of human interests; but that it should be read as giving some indication of the great and fine possibilities of human life; that gathered here are the discoveries which men of old time made about the glorious transmutation of human life, which came, and which may still come, through the impact of the living God upon the crude ore of our natural selves.

To facilitate the reading of the text, notes showing the sources for each meditation have been placed at the back of the book.

THE COMPILER

THE
DAILY
COMPANION

January the First

MORNING

Not that I have already attained this or am already perfect, but I press forward.

Hence I never lose heart; though my outward man decays, my inner man is renewed day after day. The slight trouble of the passing hour results in a solid glory past all comparison, for those of us whose eyes are on the unseen, not on the seen; for the seen is transient, the unseen eternal.

Make it your whole concern to furnish your faith with resolution, resolution with intelligence, intelligence with self-control, self-control with steadfastness, steadfastness with godliness, godliness with brotherliness, and brotherliness with Christian love.

Of this I am confident, that he who has begun the good work in you will go on completing it until the day of Jesus Christ.

You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

EVENING

Be strong, be brave, fear not . . . for it is the Eternal your God who goes with you, he will never fail you nor forsake you.

Help comes from the Eternal who made heaven and earth.

He never faints, never is weary,
his insight is unsearchable;
into the weary he puts power,
and adds new strength to the weak.
Young men may faint and weary,
the strong youth may give way,
but those who wait for the Eternal shall renew their strength,
they put out wings like eagles,
they run and never weary,
they walk and never faint.

Well, if for all your evil you know to give your children what is good, how much more will your Father in heaven give good to those who ask him?

Never be anxious, but always make your requests known to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; so shall God's peace, that surpasses all our dreams, keep guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

MORNING

Where words abound, sin is not wanting:
he who controls his tongue is a wise man.

A man who mocks at his neighbour has no sense:
the prudent man will hold his tongue.

The talk of good men puts forth buds of wisdom,
but men of false tongue shall be felled.
The speech of good men is a breath of pleasure,
but bad men talking breathe out malice.

By sins of the lips bad men get into trouble:
good men get out of trouble.
A man reaps the result of all his words,
and he must answer for his deeds.
Truth told endures:
a lie lasts only for a little while.

Liars are loathsome to the Eternal,
but the sincere are a delight to him.

A mild reply turns wrath aside,
but a sharp word will stir up anger.

A soothing tongue means life and peace,
but wild words wound.

A rebuke sinks deeper into a man of sense
than a hundred lashes into a fool.

EVENING

Let all your anxieties fall upon him, for his great interest is in you.

For ours is no high priest who cannot have sympathy with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every respect like ourselves, yet without sinning. So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in the hour of need.

As he suffered by his temptations he is able to help the tempted.

Now if God so clothes the grass of the field which blooms to-day and is thrown to-morrow into the furnace, will not he much more clothe you? O men, how little you trust him! Do not be troubled, then, and cry, "What are we to eat?" or "what are we to drink?" or "how are we to be clothed?" (pagans make all that their aim in life), for well your heavenly Father knows you need all that. Seek God's Realm and his goodness, and all that will be yours over and above.

NOTE: See page 367 for list of texts compiled for the above meditations.

MORNING

Blessed are the pure in heart!
they will see God.

Who may ascend the Eternal's hill?
Who may stand within his sacred shrine?
He only who has clean hands and a heart unstained,
who never sets his mind on what is false,
who never breaks his word;
he gains a blessing from the Eternal,
a boon from God his saviour.
Such are the men who are in quest of him,
who seek the presence of the God of Jacob.

You Pharisees do clean the outside of the cup and the plate,
but your inner life is filled with rapacity and malice.
Foolish men! did not he who made the outside make the inside of things too?
Better cleanse what is within! then nothing will be unclean for you.

Who can say, "I have made my heart clean,
I am pure and sinless"?

A leper came to him beseeching him on bended knee, saying, "If you only choose, you can cleanse me"; so he stretched his hand out in pity and touched him, saying, "I do choose, be cleansed." And the leprosy at once left him and he was cleansed.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, he forgives our sins and cleanses us from all iniquity.

EVENING

Have faith in God!

The man who draws near to God must believe that he exists and that he does reward those who seek him.

I do believe; help my unbelief.

Is anything too hard for the Eternal?

Thou canst do anything,
nothing is too hard for thee.

As you believe, so your prayer is granted.

I tell you truly, whoever says to this hill, "Take and throw yourself into the sea," and has not a doubt in his mind but believes that what he says will happen, he will have it done. So I tell you, whatever you pray for and ask, believe you have got it, and you shall have it.

O men, how little you trust him! So do not seek food and drink and be worried; pagans make food and drink their aim in life, but your Father knows quite well you need that; only seek his Realm, and it will be yours over and above.

MORNING

He will be saved who holds out to the very end.

If a man is on the housetop and his goods inside the house, he must not go down to fetch them out; nor must a man in the field turn back (remember Lot's wife).

No one is any use to the Reign of God who puts his hand to the plough and then looks behind him.

Epaphras my fellow-prisoner in Christ Jesus salutes you. So do Demas and Luke, my fellow-workers.
Our beloved Luke salutes you; so does Demas.
Demas, in his love for this world, has deserted me.

He said to another man, "Follow me"; but he said, "Let me go and bury my father first of all." Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead; you go and spread the news of the Reign of God."

People who on hearing the word accept it with enthusiasm; but they have no root in themselves, they do not last; the next thing is, when the word brings trouble or persecution, they are at once repelled.

Be faithful, and I will give you the crown of Life.

EVENING

Evermore shall the Eternal guide you,
guarding you without fail.

I am always beside thee;
thou holdest my right hand,
guiding me with thy counsel,
leading me after thyself by the hand.
Whom have I in heaven but thee?
On earth I care for nothing else.
Body and soul may fail,
but God my strength is mine, my own for evermore.

He guides me by true paths,
as he himself is true.
My road may run through a glen of gloom,
but I fear no harm, for thou art beside me;
thy club, thy staff—they give me courage.

Rely with all your heart on the Eternal,
and never lean on your own insight;
have mind of him wherever you may go,
and he will clear the road for you.

MORNING

Lo, I stand at the door and knock.

A strong fierce wind, but the Eternal was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake, but the Eternal was not in the earthquake; after the earthquake a fire, but the Eternal was not in the fire; after the fire the breath of a light whisper. As soon as Elijah heard that, he wrapped his face in his mantle.

Samuel went and lay down in his place, and the Eternal came and stood, calling, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel said, "Speak, thy servant is listening."

For all their seeing they do not see and for all their hearing they neither hear nor understand.
For the heart of this people is obtuse,
their ears are heavy of hearing,
their eyes they have closed,
lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears,
lest they understand with their heart and turn again for me to cure them.

He who has an ear, let him listen to this.

If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sup with him, and he with me.

He made as if he were going further on, but they pressed him, saying, "Stay with us."

EVENING

Bless the Eternal, O my soul,
remember all his benefits;
he pardons all your sins.

He deals not with us as our guilt deserves;
but, high as heaven is over earth,
so vast his love is to his worshippers;
as far as east from the west,
so far he puts our sins away from us.

For when we were still in weakness, Christ died in due time for the ungodly. For the ungodly! Why, a man will hardly die for the just—though one might bring oneself to die, if need be, for a good man. But God proves his love for us by this, that Christ died for us when we were still sinners.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, he forgives our sins and cleanses us from all iniquity.

Rejoice in the Lord always; I will say it again, "rejoice."

MORNING

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty.

I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne; his trailing robes spread over the temple-floor, and seraphs hovered round him, each with six wings—two covering the face, two covering the body, and two to fly with. They kept calling to one another,

"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts,
his majestic splendour fills the whole earth!"

As he who called you is holy, so you must be holy too in all your conduct—for it is written, You shall be holy because I am holy. And as you call upon a Father who judges everyone impartially by what he has done, be reverent in your conduct while you sojourn here below.

For we are the temple of the living God—as God has said,
I will dwell and move among them,
I will be their God and they shall be my people.

I appeal to you by all the mercy of God to dedicate your bodies as a living sacrifice, consecrated and acceptable to God; that is your cult, a spiritual rite. Instead of being moulded to this world, have your mind renewed, and so be transformed in nature, able to make out what the will of God is, namely, what is good and acceptable to him and perfect.

EVENING

We have an advocate with the Father in Jesus Christ the just.

If thou didst keep strict tally of sins,
O Lord, who could live on?
But thou hast pardon,
that thou mayest be worshipped.
So I wait in hope for the Eternal,
my soul waits hoping for his promise;
for with the Eternal there is love,
there is a wealth of saving power.

But now we have a righteousness of God disclosed apart from law altogether; it is attested by the Law and the prophets, but it is a righteousness of God which comes by believing Jesus Christ. And it is meant for all who have faith. No distinctions are drawn. All have sinned, all come short of the glory of God, but they are justified for nothing by his grace through the ransom provided in Christ Jesus.

The wicked will not inherit the Realm of God. Some of you were once like that; but you washed yourselves clean, you were consecrated, you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

MORNING

Make no mistake—God is not to be mocked—a man will reap just what he sows.

Now the deeds of the flesh are quite obvious, such as sexual vice, impurity, sensuality, quarrels, dissension, jealousy, temper, rivalry, revelry, and the like; people who indulge in such practices will never inherit the Realm of God.

Keep out of all incongruous ties with unbelievers.

What have righteousness and iniquity in common, or how can light associate with darkness?

What harmony can there be between Christ and Beliar, or what business has a believer with an unbeliever?

Have nothing to do with the fruitless enterprises of the darkness; rather expose them.

I am the real Vine, and my Father is the vine-dresser; he cuts away any branch on me which is not bearing fruit, and cleans every branch which does bear fruit, to make it bear richer fruit. Remain in me, as I remain in you: just as a branch cannot bear fruit by itself, without remaining on the vine, neither can you, unless you remain in me. He who remains in me, as I in him, bears rich fruit.

EVENING

We love, because He loved us first.

For God loved the world so dearly that he gave up his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life, instead of perishing. God did not send his Son into the world to pass sentence on it, but to save the world by him. He who believes in him is not sentenced.

Dead in trespasses as we were, God was so rich in mercy that for his great love to us he made us live together with Christ; together with Christ he raised us and seated us within the heavenly sphere in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, as you had faith; it is not your doing but God's gift.

The God who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, surely He will give us everything besides!

Well, we do know, we have believed, the love God has for us. God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

MORNING

Lead the life of those who are children of the light.

Woe to those who call good evil,
and call evil good,
who make out darkness to be light,
light to be darkness,
who make out bitter to be sweet,
sweet to be bitter!

God who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," has shone within my heart to illuminate men with the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Christ.

Here is the message we learned from him and announce to you: "God is light and in him there is no darkness, none." If we say, "We have fellowship with him," when we live and move in darkness, then we are lying, we are not practising the truth; but if we live and move within the light, as he is within the light, then we have fellowship one with another.

The people who were dwelling in the darkness
have now seen a great light;
those who were living in a land of shadows,
upon them light has shone.

No one lights a lamp to put it in a cellar or under a bowl,
but on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.

EVENING

Fear not, for I am with you.

Put heart into the listless,
and brace all weak-kneed souls,
tell men with fluttering hearts,
"Have courage, never fear;
here comes your God,
he comes himself to save you!"

I desire to do what is right, but wrong is all that I can manage; I cordially agree with God's law, so far as my inner self is concerned, but then I find another law in my members which conflicts with the law of my mind and makes me a prisoner to sin's law that resides in my members.

Miserable wretch that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? God will! Thanks be to him through Jesus Christ our Lord!

"Then shall you learn that I am the Eternal,
that none who look to me are disappointed."
"But can a strong man's prey be snatched away?
Can prisoners of a tyrant ever escape?"
"Yes, prisoners may be snatched even from a strong man,
even the prey of tyrants may escape.
I will maintain your cause."

MORNING

Watch: I say it to you, and I say it to all.

Be careful to watch yourselves well, all through your life, lest you forget what you have seen for yourselves, and let it pass from your mind.

Then he went to the disciples and found them asleep; and he said to Peter, "So the three of you could not watch with me for a single hour? Watch and pray, all of you, that you may not slip into temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak."

Attend to your prayers, maintain your zest for prayer by thanksgiving.

God destined us not for Wrath but to gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us waking in life or sleeping in death we should live together with him.

Watch, stand firm in the faith!

My just man shall live on by his faith; if he shrinks back, my soul takes no delight in him.

We are not the men to shrink back and be lost, but to have faith and so to win our souls.

EVENING

I will satisfy my people with my bounty.

Some lay in darkness and in gloom,
because they had rebelled at God's commands,
hard labour crushed their spirit,
  and wearied out, forlorn,
they cried to the Eternal in their need,
  to save them from their evil plight;
he took them from the darkness and the gloom.

O God, thou art my God, I yearn for thee,
body and soul, I thirst, I long for thee,
like a land without water, weary, dry.

  He satisfies their longing thirst,
    and fills them in their hunger.

Let thy servants see thee at thy saving work,
  and let their children see thy glorious power.
Lord, may thy loving favour rest on us,
  and prosper all the work we undertake.

MORNING

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

Then rising from prayer he went to the disciples, only to find them asleep from sheer sorrow. He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not slip into temptation."

No temptation has waylaid you that is beyond man's power; trust God, he will never let you be tempted beyond what you can stand, but, when temptation comes, he will provide the way out of it, so that you can bear up under it.

From the Jordan, Jesus came back full of the holy Spirit, and for forty days he was led by the Spirit in the desert, while the devil tempted him.

And after exhausting every kind of temptation, the devil left him till a fit opportunity arrived.

It is as he suffered by his temptations that he is able to help the tempted.

EVENING

Because I am living and you will be living too.

We believe that as we have died with Christ we shall also live with him; for we know that Christ never dies after his resurrection from the dead—death has no more hold over him; the death he died was for sin, once for all, but the life he lives is for God. So you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Truly, truly I tell you, he who listens to my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he will incur no sentence of judgment, he has already passed from death across to life.

I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, Christ lives in me; the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me.

Since then you have been raised with Christ, aim at what is above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; mind what is above, not what is on earth, for you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Blessed is he who endures; for when he has stood the test, he will gain the crown of life which is promised to all who love Him.

MORNING

All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for amendment, and for moral discipline.

Jesus said to them, "Is this not where you go wrong?—you understand neither the scriptures nor the power of God."

Then he began with Moses and all the prophets and interpreted to them the passages referring to himself throughout the scriptures.

They were perfectly ready to receive the Word and made a daily study of the scriptures.

I store thy word within my heart, to keep myself from sinning against thee.
I muse on thy behests and mark thy paths;
I learn sense from thy behests, learn to hate godless ways.

A new covenant—a covenant not of written law but of spirit: the written law kills but the Spirit makes alive.

The words I have uttered to you are spirit and life.

EVENING

The God who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, surely He will give us everything besides!

Whoever of you is defective in wisdom, let him ask God who gives to all men without question or reproach, and the gift will be his.

If for all your evil you know to give your children what is good,
how much more will your Father give the holy Spirit from heaven to those who ask him?

But each one of us is granted his own grace, as determined by the full measure of Christ's gift.

Everyone is endowed by God in his own way.

He granted some men to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, some to shepherd and teach, for the equipment of the saints, for the upbuilding of the Body of Christ, till we should all attain the unity of the faith and knowledge of God's Son, reaching the full measure of development which belongs to the fulness of Christ.

Rekindle the divine gift which you received, for God has not given us a timid spirit but a spirit of power and love and discipline.

MORNING

Be hospitable.

What is the use of anyone declaring he has faith, if he has no deeds to show? Can his faith save him? Suppose some brother or sister is ill-clad and short of daily food; if any of you says to them, "Depart in peace! Get warm, get food," without supplying their bodily needs, what use is that? Faith, unless it has deeds, is dead in itself.

One gives away, and still he grows the richer:
another keeps what he should give, and is the poorer.
A liberal soul will be enriched,
and he who waters will himself be watered.

Do not forget beneficence and charity, either; these are the kind of sacrifices that are acceptable to God.

God is not unfair; he will not forget what you have done, or the love you have shown for his sake in ministering, as you still do, to the saints.

Never let us grow tired of doing what is right, for if we do not faint we shall reap our harvest at the opportune season. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men and in particular to the household of the faith.

EVENING

Age after age, Lord, thou hast been our home;
from all eternity thou hast been God,

Ere ever hills were born,
ere ever earth and world were made.

Who ever moved the mind of the Eternal,
or gave him lessons and advice?
Lift high your eyes, look up;
who made these stars?
He who marshals them in order,
summoning each one by name.

What a fathomless wealth lies in the wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable his judgments! How mysterious his methods!

The gospel of the fathomless wealth of Christ enlightens all men upon the new order of that divine secret which God the Creator of all concealed from eternity—intending to let the full sweep of the divine wisdom be disclosed in terms of the eternal purpose which he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, through whom, as we have faith in him, we enjoy our confidence of free access.

Happy the man who stays by the Most High in shelter,
who lives under the shadow of Almighty God.

MORNING

This is my command: you are to love one another as I have loved you.

You need no one to write to you upon brotherly love, for you are yourselves taught by God to love one another, as indeed is your practice towards all the brothers. We beseech you, brothers, to excel in this more and more.

Be in debt to no man—apart from the debt of love one to another. He who loves his fellow-man has fulfilled the law. You must not commit adultery, you must not kill, you must not steal, you must not covet—these and any other command are summed up in a single word, You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love never wrongs a neighbour; that is why love is the fulfilment of the law.

He who says he is "in the light" and hates his brother, is in darkness still. He who loves his brother remains in the light—but he who hates his brother walks in darkness and the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love belongs to God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

God's love floods our hearts through the holy Spirit which has been given to us.

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, good temper, kindliness, generosity, fidelity, gentleness, self-control.

EVENING

Kept by the power of thy Name not one perished.

What can ever part us from Christ's love? Can anguish or calamity or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or the sword?

No, in all this we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, no powers of the Height or of the Depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to part us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As he suffered by his temptations he is able to help the tempted.

I know whom I have trusted, and I am certain that he is able to keep what I have put into his hands, till the great Day.

If we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord.

Thus we are the Lord's whether we live or die; it was for this that Christ died and rose and came to life, to be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

MORNING

Lead a life that is worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Standing firm in a common spirit, fighting side by side like one man for the faith of the gospel. Never be scared for a second by your opponents; your fearlessness is a clear omen of ruin for them and of your own salvation—at the hands of God. For on behalf of Christ you have the favour of suffering no less than of believing in him.

You are the light of the world. A town on the top of a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp to put it under a bowl; they put it on a stand and it shines for all in the house. So your light is to shine before men, that they may see the good you do and glorify your Father in heaven.

In all that you do, avoid grumbling and disputing, so as to be blameless and innocent, faultless children of God in a crooked and perverse generation where you shine like stars in a dark world.

Never let kindness and loyalty go,
tie them fast round your neck;
so you shall have goodwill and good repute
with God and man alike.

Be an ornament to the doctrine of God our Saviour in all respects.

EVENING

Let those who are suffering by the will of God trust their souls to him, their faithful Creator, as they continue to do right.

God has made me fruitful in the land of my misfortunes.

It was trouble at every turn, wrangling all round me, fears in my own mind. But the God who comforts the dejected comforted me.

Though for the passing moment you may need to suffer various trials; that is only to prove your faith is sterling (far more precious than gold which is perishable and yet is tested by fire).

I have said all this to you that in me you may have peace; in the world you have trouble, but courage!—I have conquered the world.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort, who comforts me in all my distress, so that I am able to comfort people who are in any distress by the comfort with which I myself am comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ are abundant, so comfort is also abundant through Christ.

MORNING

Let your talk always have a saving salt of grace about it.

The words of wise men win them favour,
  but a fool's lips are his ruin;
a fool prates on and on:
  even the stupid are weary of his fussiness.

The crown of wise men is their wisdom:
  the coronet of fools is their own folly.
An honest witness will save life!
  but one who tells a lie destroys life.
Only a base man listens to malicious words;
  only the false attend to mischievous talk.

You must not swear any oath,
  neither by heaven,
    for it is the throne of God,
  nor by earth,
    for it is the footstool of his feet.
Let what you say be simply "yes" or "no."

Lay aside falsehood, then, let each tell his neighbour the truth, for we are members one of another.

EVENING

As the eyes of servants are fixed on the hand of their lord,
so our eyes look to our God, the Eternal, till he take pity on us.

He rains abundantly upon the land,
till grass grows for the cattle,
  and fodder for the beasts that serve mankind;
that he may bring food from the earth.

Ask and the gift will be yours,
  seek and you will find,
    knock and the door will open to you.

From earth's far end I call to thee,
  as my heart faints.
When troubles are too strong for me,
  do thou direct me.
To hapless men thou art a strength,
  a strength to the forlorn in woe.

MORNING

Who is for the Eternal? come over to me!

Time would fail me to tell of Gideon, of Barak, of Samson and Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—men who by faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, from weakness won to strength, proved valiant in warfare.

The angels of the Eternal camp around his worshippers,
and rescue them.

The Eternal's promises are tried and true;
he shields all who take shelter with him.
For who is God save the Eternal?
Who is steadfast save our God?
God is my stronghold,
God is a perfect guide to me.
He trains me how to fight,
till thine answers to prayer have raised me.

Thou hast braced me for the fray.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

EVENING

As we have borne the likeness of material Man,
so we are to bear the likeness of the heavenly Man.

We are children of God now, beloved; what we are to be is not apparent yet, but we do know that when he appears we are to be like him—for we are to see him as he is.

Many—as I have often told you and tell you now with tears—many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Destruction is their fate, the belly is their god, they glory in their shame, these men of earthly mind! But we are a colony of heaven, and we wait for the Saviour who comes from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body that belongs to our low estate till it resembles the body of his Glory, by the same power that enables him to make everything subject to himself.

In their presence he was transfigured, his face shone like the sun, and his clothes turned white as light.

As there is an animate body, so there is a spiritual body.

The dead will rise imperishable, and we shall be changed.

MORNING

The world is passing away with its desire, while he who does the will of God remains for ever.

He said to them, "See and keep clear of covetousness in every shape and form, for a man's life is not part of his possessions because he has ample wealth."

Where your treasure lies,
your heart will lie there too.

He told them a parable. "A rich man's estate bore heavy crops. So he debated 'What am I to do? I have no room to store my crops.' And he said, 'This is what I will do. I will pull down my granaries and build larger ones, where I can store all my produce and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample stores laid up for many a year; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."' But God said to him, 'Foolish man, this very night your soul is required from you; and who will get all you have prepared?' So fares the man who lays up treasure for himself, instead of gaining the riches of God."

EVENING

For our sakes He made him to be sin who himself knew nothing of sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Christ himself died for sins, once for all, a just man for unjust men, that he might bring us near to God.

He bore our sins in his own body on the gibbet, that we might break with sin and live the good life; it is by his wounds that you have been healed.

He was despised, we took no heed of him.
And yet ours was the pain he bore,
the sorrow he endured!
He was wounded because we had sinned,
'twas our misdeeds that crushed him;
'twas for our welfare that he was chastised,
the blows that fell to him have brought us healing.

Instead of moulding yourselves to the passions that once ruled the days of your ignorance; as He who called you is holy, so you must be holy too in all your conduct. It was not by perishable silver or gold that you were ransomed from the futile traditions of your past, but by the precious blood of Christ, a lamb unblemished and unstained.

MORNING

Thinking on how to live, I turn to thy directions.

Come, let me put it thus,
the Eternal argues:
scarlet your sins may be,
but they can become white as snow,
they may be red as crimson,
and yet turn white as wool.

Test me, O thou Eternal, try me,
prove me, in heart and mind.

Well do I know my offences;
my sin is never out of mind.
It is against thee I have sinned,
I have done evil in thy sight.

'Tis inward truth that thou desirest;
grant me then wisdom in my secret heart.
Who can detect his lapses?
Absolve me from my faults unknown!

If we say, "We are not guilty," we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us; if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, he forgives our sins and cleanses us from all iniquity.

Let us draw near with a true heart, in absolute assurance of faith.

EVENING

If God is for us, who can be against us?

The Eternal is my light and aid;
whom shall I fear?
The Eternal is the fortress of my life;
whom shall I dread?

Have no fear of those who kill the body but after that can do no more. Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings?
Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.
Fear not, you are worth far more than sparrows.

He laid his hand on me, saying, "Be not afraid; I am the First and the Last, I was dead and here am I alive for evermore, holding the keys that unlock death and Hades."

The Eternal is my strength, of him I sing,
he has delivered me indeed.

MORNING

Man's conscience is the lamp of the Eternal,
flashing into his inmost soul.

When Gentiles who have no law exhibit the effect of the Law written on their hearts, their conscience bears them witness, as their moral convictions accuse or it may be defend them.

The living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that in them is, as the bountiful Giver did not leave himself without a witness, giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, giving you food and joy to your heart's content.

Besides, we have the testimony of the holy Spirit;
This is the covenant I will make with them, saith the Lord.
I will set my laws upon their hearts,
inscribing them upon their minds.

He who would love Life
and enjoy good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking guile:
let him shun wrong and do right,
let him seek peace and make peace his aim.

See that you have a clean conscience.

EVENING

Turn back, you turncoat children,
and I will heal your hurt.

Put away your idols vile
and never stray from my sight.
You have burdened me with sins,
and wearied me with your iniquities.
Yet I put your sins out of my mind.

As he was speaking, the cock crowed: the Lord turned round and looked at Peter, and then Peter remembered what the Lord had told him, that "Before cock-crow to-day, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

The third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after rising from the dead. He said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than the others do?" "Why, Lord," he said, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," said Jesus.

MORNING

Your enemy the devil prowls like a roaring lion, looking out for someone to devour. Resist him; keep your foothold in the faith.

The devil showed him all the realms of the world and their grandeur; he said, "I will give you all that if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus told him, "Begone, Satan! it is written, You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone." At this the devil left him, and angels came up and ministered to him.

Love not the world, nor yet what is in the world; if anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the proud glory of life, belongs not to the Father but to the world; and the world is passing away with its desire, while he who does the will of God remains for ever.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might; we have to struggle, not with blood and flesh but with the potentates of the dark present, the spirit-forces of evil. So take God's armour, that you may be able to stand overcoming all the foe. Hold your ground, tighten the belt of truth about your loins, wear integrity as your coat of mail, and above all, take faith as your shield, put on salvation as your helmet, and take the Spirit as your sword, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all manner of prayer and entreaty.

EVENING

I am a sinful man.

I desire to do what is right, but wrong is all that I can manage.

The wish is there, but not the power of doing what is right. I cannot be good as I desire to be, and I do wrong against my wishes.

Well do I know my offences;
  my sin is never out of mind.
It is against thee I have sinned,
  I have done evil in thy sight.
Yes, thou art just in thy charge,
  justified in thy sentence.
So I despise myself,
  in dust and ashes I repent.

Courage, my son! your sins are forgiven.

Washed clean, consecrated, justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

I believe that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise me too with Jesus.

MORNING

Unless the Eternal builds the house.
workmen build in vain.

Why call me, "Lord, Lord!" and obey me not? Everyone who listens to my words and acts upon them is like a man engaged in building a house, who dug deep down and laid his foundation on the rock. He who has listened and has not obeyed, is like a man who built a house on the earth with no foundation; the river dashed against it and it collapsed at once, and the ruin of that house was great.

The stone that the builders rejected
is the chief stone now of the corner.
Everyone who falls on that stone will be shattered,
and whoever it falls upon will be crushed.

You have had a taste of the kindness of the Lord: come to him then—come to that living Stone which men have rejected and God holds choice and precious; come and, like living stones yourselves, be built into a spiritual house, to form a consecrated priesthood for the offering of those spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

The foundation is laid, namely Jesus Christ, and no one can lay any other. On that foundation anyone may build.

EVENING

God never goes back upon his gifts and call.

I will remember my compact with you in the days of your youth; I will ratify a lasting compact with you.

I know whom I have trusted, and I am certain that he is able to keep what I have put into his hands, till the great Day.

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
guiding them to fountains of living water;
and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes.

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel when that day comes,
saith the Lord;
I will set my laws within their mind,
inscribing them upon their hearts;
I will be a God to them,
and they shall be a People to me;
one citizen will no longer teach his fellow,
one man will no longer teach his brother,
saying, "Know the Lord,"
for all are to know me, low and high together.
I will be merciful to their iniquities,
and remember their sins no more.

MORNING

Thy Reign begin,
thy will be done
on earth as in heaven!

I have come down from heaven not to carry out my own will but the will of him who sent me.

"My heart is sad, sad even to death; stay here and watch with me." Then he went forward a little and fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass me. Yet, not what I will but what thou wilt."

It is not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord!" who will get into the Realm of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven.

What is the use of anyone declaring that he has faith, if he has no deeds to show? Can that faith of his save him? Suppose some brother or sister is ill-clad and short of daily food; if any of you tells them, "Depart in peace! Get warm, get food," without supplying their bodily needs, what use is that? So faith, unless it has deeds, is dead in itself. You believe in one God? Well and good. So do the devils, and they shudder. But faith without deeds is dead.

You observe, it is by what he does that a man is justified, not simply by what he believes.

EVENING

O God, as thou art kind, have mercy upon me,
in thy vast pity wipe out my offences,
wash me from every stain of guilt,
and purge me from my sin.

A leper came to him, beseeching him on bended knee, saying, "If you only choose, you can cleanse me"; so he stretched his hand out in pity and touched him saying, "I do choose, be cleansed."

I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

If we say, "We are not guilty," we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us; if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, he forgives our sins and cleanses us from all iniquity; if we say, "We have not sinned," we make him a liar and his word is not within us.

If the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkled on defiled persons, give them a holiness that bears on bodily purity, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who in the spirit of the eternal offered himself as an unblemished sacrifice to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve a living God?

MORNING

The Eternal's law is in his heart,
his footsteps never falter.

Pore over it day and night, that you may be mindful to carry out all that is written.

The Eternal's law is a sound law,
reviving life;
the Eternal's is a trusty witness,
that instructs the open-minded;
the Eternal's orders are just,
a joy to the heart;
the Eternal's command is clear,
a light to the mind;
the Eternal's faith is a clean faith,
it will last for ever.

Attend to that word; it shines like a lamp within a darksome spot, till the Day dawns and the daystar rises within your hearts—understanding this, at the outset, that prophecy never came by human impulse, it was when carried away by the holy Spirit that the holy men of God spoke.

All such words were written of old for our instruction, that by remaining steadfast and drawing encouragement from the scriptures we may cherish hope.

EVENING

The Eternal is my allotted share, I say;
therefore I will hope in him.

O God, thou art my God, I yearn for thee,
body and soul, I thirst, I long for thee,
like a land without water, weary, dry.
As I have seen thee in the sanctuary,
with visions of thy power and majesty,
so will I bless thee while I live,
lifting my hands in prayer to thee.

Teach me what is thy way, O thou Eternal,
and lead me by a level road.

He who was seated on the throne said, "Lo, I make all things new." I will let the thirsty drink of the fountain of the water of Life without price. The conqueror shall obtain this, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

MORNING

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good deeds.

Two are better than one; they come well off in all they undertake, for if one falls the other man can raise his fellow. But woe betide a lonely man who falls, with none to help him up!

Simon, Satan has claimed the right to sift you all like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail. And you in turn must prove a strength to your brothers.

I tell you another thing: if two of you agree on earth about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three have gathered in my name, I am there among them.

As the local brothers had heard about us, they came out to meet us and, when Paul saw them he thanked God and took courage.

As we live by the Spirit, let us be guided by the Spirit; let us have no vanity, no provoking, no envy of one another. Even if anyone be detected in some trespass, you must set the offender right in a spirit of gentleness, each of you looking to himself, in case he too is tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Peace, then, and the building up of each other, these are what we should aim at.

EVENING

The Eternal delights in his people.

For the interests of the flesh are hostile to God; they do not yield to the law of God indeed (they cannot). Those who are in the flesh cannot satisfy God. But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells within you.

You are to adorn yourselves on the inside, in the heart, with the immortal beauty of a gentle and modest spirit, which in the sight of God is of rare value.

When the ways of man please the Eternal,
  He makes even his foes friends with him.
Better a little with honesty,
  than a large income with injustice.

Do not forget beneficence and charity, either; these are the kind of sacrifices that are acceptable to God.

You are leading that life, but you are to excel in it still further.

MORNING

Guard above all things, guard your inner self.

Blessèd are the pure in heart!
they will see God.

For where your treasure lies,
your heart will lie there too.

The mouth utters what the heart is full of.
The good man brings good out of his good store,
and the evil man brings evil out of his store of evil.

Do God's will from the heart, like servants of Christ, by rendering service with goodwill as to the Lord and Master.

For those who follow the flesh have their interests in the flesh,
and those who follow the Spirit have their interests in the Spirit.
The interests of the flesh mean death,
the interests of the Spirit mean life and peace.

The aim of the Christian discipline is the love that springs from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith.

EVENING

Year after year thou sowest men
like grass that grows anew,
that in the dawn is fresh and flourishing,
then by twilight fades and withers.

Our life is seventy years at most,
or eighty at the best,
a span of toil and trouble,
soon over, and we flit away.

So man goes to his long, long home,
and mourners pass along the street.

I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, so that you may be where I am.

If God so clothes grass which blooms to-day in the field and is thrown to-morrow into the furnace, how much more will he clothe you!

The dust returns to earth once more,
the spirit to God who gave it.

The world is passing away with its desire, while he who does the will of God remains for ever.

MORNING

Compare him who steadily endured hostility from sinful men, so as to keep your own hearts from fainting.

Blessed are you when men denounce you and persecute you and utter all manner of evil against you for my sake; rejoice and exult in it, for your reward is rich in heaven; that is how they persecuted the prophets before you.

If the world hates you, remember it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love what it owned; it is because you do not belong to the world, because I have chosen you from the world, that the world hates you. "A servant is not greater than his master."

If they persecuted me, they will persecute you.

As Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, let this very conviction that he who has suffered in the flesh gets quit of sin, nerve you to spend the rest of your time in the flesh for the will of God and no longer for human passions. It astonishes pagans that you will not plunge into profligacy.

Steady then, keep cool and pray! Above all, be keen to love one another, for love hides a host of sins. You must serve one another, each with the talent he has received as efficient stewards of God's varied grace; supplied by God with power—so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

EVENING

His kindness never fails.

Who is a God like thee?—forgiving sins
and passing over wrong,
delighting to be merciful;
thou wilt have pity upon us again,
and wash off our iniquities.

Let guilty men give up their ways,
  and evil men their purposes;
let them turn back to the Eternal,
  who will pity them,
turn back to our God, for he
  will pardon them abundantly.

Dead in trespasses as we were, God was so rich in mercy that for his great love to us he made us live together with Christ (it is by grace you have been saved); together with Christ he raised us and seated us within the heavenly sphere in Christ Jesus, to display throughout ages to come his surpassing wealth of grace and goodness toward us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, as you had faith; it is not your doing but God's gift.

MORNING

Death and life are determined by the tongue.

The good man's words are wise,
his talk is true;
the Eternal's law is in his heart,
his footsteps never falter.

Let no bad word pass your lips, but only such speech as is good for edification, as occasion may require, words that are gracious and a means of grace to those who hear them. Do not vex God's holy Spirit.

By your words you will be acquitted,
and by your words you will be condemned.
Everyone who will acknowledge me before men,
I will acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.

Confess with your mouth that "Jesus is Lord," believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, and you will be saved; for
with his heart man believes and is justified,
with his mouth he confesses and is saved.

EVENING

"The Eternal has forsaken me," says Sion,
"my Lord has forgotten me."

Can a woman forget her infant,
forget to pity her babe?
Yet even were a mother to forget,
never will I forget you.
I have swept aside your ill deeds like a mist,
and your sins like a cloud.

Let me recall what the Eternal did,
let me remember thy wonders of old,
let me think of all that thou hast done,
and muse upon thy deeds.

The power of God protects you by faith till you do inherit the salvation which is all ready to be revealed at the last hour. You will rejoice then, though for the passing moment you may need to suffer various trials; that is only to prove your faith is sterling, and it redounds to your praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

MORNING

Love your enemies and help them,
then you will be sons of the Most High—
for he is kind even to the ungrateful and the evil.

The Eternal is gracious and pitiful,
slow to be angry, very kind.
He makes his sun rise on the evil and the good,
and sends rain on the just and the unjust.

Now that your obedience to the Truth has purified your souls for a brotherly love that is sincere, love one another heartily and steadily.

Drop all bitter feeling and passion and anger and clamouring and insults, together with all malice; be generous to each other as God has been generous to you in Christ. Lead lives of love, just as Christ loved you and gave himself up for you.

Never pay back evil for evil to anyone; be at peace with all men, if possible, so far as that depends on you.

If your enemy is hungry, feed him,
if he is thirsty, give him drink;
for in this way you will make him
feel a burning sense of shame.

Never let evil get the better of you; get the better of evil by doing good.

EVENING

Let not your hearts be disquieted.

My realm does not belong to this world.

"Ungodly men are like the restless sea,
that never can be still,
whose waters throw up dirt and mire;
no prosperous peace for the ungodly," says my God.

For all that is in the world, the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the proud glory of life, belongs not to the Father but to the world; and the world is passing away with its desire.

What profit will it be if a man gains the whole world and forfeits his own soul?

He who does the will of God remains for ever.

I have said all this to you that in me you may have peace; in the world you have trouble, but courage!—I have conquered the world.

And I will be with you, to the very end of the world.

MORNING

This is how we may be sure we know him, by obeying his commands.

He who says, "I know him," but does not obey his commands, is a liar and the truth is not in him; but whoever obeys his word, in him love to God is really complete. He who says he "remains in him" ought to be living as he lived.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain within my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain within my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain within his love.

I have told you this, that my joy may be within you and your joy complete. This is my command: you are to love one another as I have loved you.

Drop all bitter feeling and passion and anger and clamouring and insults, together with all malice; be kind to each other, be tender-hearted, be generous to each other as God has been generous to you in Christ.

May the God of peace who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, furnish you with everything that is good for the doing of his will.

EVENING

He guides me by true paths,
as he himself is true.

I am the good shepherd, I know my sheep and my sheep know me (just as the Father knows me and I know the Father), and I lay down my life for the sheep.

He feeds his flock like a shepherd,
  and gathers them in his arms,
he is carrying the lambs in his bosom,
  and leading the ewes gently.
  He teaches any who go astray,
guiding humble souls aright,
  teaching humble souls his way.

My road may run through a glen of gloom,
but I fear no harm, for thou art beside me;
  Thou holdest my right hand,
guiding me with thy counsel,
  leading me after thyself.

I have still much to tell you, but you cannot bear it at present. However, when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all the truth; for he will not speak of his own accord, he will say whatever he is told, and he will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify me for he will draw upon what is mine and disclose it to you.

MORNING

Blessed are those who hear and who observe the word of God!

Blessed are those who feel poor in spirit!
the Realm of heaven is theirs.
Blessed are the mourners!
they will be consoled.
Blessed are the humble!
they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for goodness!
they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful!
they will find mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart!
they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers!
they will be ranked sons of God.
Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of goodness!
the Realm of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are you when men persecute you for my sake; rejoice and exult in it, for your reward is rich in heaven.

You are the light of the world. A town on the top of a hill cannot be hidden. So your light is to shine before men, that they may see the good you do and glorify your Father in heaven.

EVENING

The living God richly provides us with all the joys of life.

God saw all that he had made, and very good it was.

The Eternal speaks!—
all the wild things of the wood are mine,
and cattle in their thousands on the hills.

Thou art good to the earth, giving water,
thou providest the grain.
Thou art crowning the year with thy goodness;
the meadows are clothed with flocks,
the valleys covered with corn,
shouting and singing for joy.

"All things are lawful"?
Yes, but not all are good for us.

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, let it be all done for the glory of God.

MORNING

He who is not against you is for you.

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw a man casting out dæmons in your name; but he does not follow us, and so we stopped him." Jesus said, "Do not stop him; no one who performs any miracle in my name will be ready to speak evil of me."

Peter said to them, "Brothers, you are well aware that from the earliest days God chose that of you all I should be the one by whom the Gentiles were to hear the word of the gospel and believe it. The God who reads the hearts of all attested this by giving them the holy Spirit just as he gave it to us; in cleansing their hearts by faith he made not the slightest distinction between us and them. It is by the grace of the Lord Jesus that we believe and are saved, in the same way as they are." So the whole meeting was quieted and listened to Barnabas and Paul recounting the signs and wonders God had performed by them among the Gentiles.

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, good temper, kindliness, generosity, fidelity, gentleness, self-control: there is no law against those who practise such things. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its emotions and passions. As we live by the Spirit, let us be guided by the Spirit; let us have no vanity, no provoking, no envy of one another.

EVENING

Jesus said to him, "I am the real and living way: no one comes to the Father except by means of me."

We have seen his glory—glory such as an only son enjoys from his father—seen it to be full of grace and reality.

It is of what we saw and heard that we bring you word, so that you may share our fellowship; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Many were the forms and fashions in which God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these days at the end he has spoken to us by a Son. Reflecting God's bright glory and stamped with God's own character.

It is in Christ that the entire Fullness of deity has settled bodily, it is in him that you reach your full life.

Lead your life in him, fixed and founded in him, confirmed in the faith as you have been taught it, and overflowing with thankfulness to God.

Nobody has ever seen God, but God has been unfolded by the divine One, the only Son, who lies upon the Father's breast.

MORNING

The course of bad men lies through darkness dim,
they cannot see what makes them stumble;
the course of good men, like a ray of dawn,
shines on and on to the full light of day.

Woe to those who call good evil,
and call evil good,
who make out darkness to be light,
light to be darkness,
who make out bitter to be sweet,
sweet to be bitter!

The eye is the lamp of the body:
so, if your Eye is generous,
the whole of your body will be illumined,
but if your Eye is selfish,
the whole of your body will be darkened.
No one can serve two masters:
either he will hate one and love the other,
or else he will stand by the one and despise the other—
you cannot serve both God and Mammon.

Amid the darkness the Light shone,
but the darkness did not master it.

So if your whole body has light, without any corner of it in darkness, it will be lit up entirely, as when a lamp lights you with its rays.

EVENING

I would tell over the Eternal's famous deeds,
praising his acts of love.

For thou hast been my help,
and shadowed by thy wings I sing thy praise.

O God, what mysteries I find in thee!
How vast the number of thy purposes!
I try to count them?—they are more than the sand;
I wake from my reverie and I am still lost in thee.

He pardons all your sins,
and all your sicknesses he heals,
he saves your life from death,
he crowns you with his love and pity.

Thou holdest my right hand,
guiding me with thy counsel.
Whom have I in heaven but thee?
On earth I care for nothing else.
Body and soul may fail,
but God my strength is mine, my own for evermore.

MORNING

Fight in the good fight of the faith.

Watch, stand firm in the faith, play the man, be strong! thanking the Father who has qualified us to share the lot of the saints in the Light, rescuing us from the power of the Darkness and transferring us to the realm of his beloved Son! In him we enjoy our redemption, that is, the forgiveness of sins.

Since you have had the messiah, even Jesus the Lord, brought to you, lead your life in him, fixed and founded in him, confirmed in the faith as you have been taught it, and overflowing with thankfulness to God.

Never be scared for a second by your opponents; your fearlessness is a clear omen of ruin for them and of your own salvation—at the hands of God.

Hold your ground, tighten the belt of truth about your loins, wear integrity as your coat of mail, and have your feet shod with the stability of the gospel of peace; above all take faith as your shield, to enable you to quench all the fire-tipped darts flung by the evil one, put on salvation as your helmet, and take the Spirit as your sword (that is, the word of God).

EVENING

O God my saviour, save me from mortal sin;
and my tongue shall praise thy faithfulness aloud.

A heart broken with penitence, O God, never wilt thou despise.

Hide thy face from my sins,
and wipe out all my guilt;
make me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new, steadfast spirit in me;
banish me not from thy presence,
deprive me not of thy sacred Spirit;
gladden me with thy saving aid again,
and give me a willing spirit as my strength.

David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Eternal." And Nathan said to David, "The Eternal has taken away your sin, you are not to die."

Lead a life worthy of the God who called you to his own realm and glory. Mirror the glory of the Lord with face unveiled, so being transformed into the same likeness as himself, passing from one glory to another—for this comes of the Lord the Spirit.

MORNING

Blessed are the peacemakers!
they will be ranked sons of God.

Where do wrangles come from, in your society? Is it not from these passions of yours that war among your members? You crave, and miss what you want: you envy and covet, but you cannot acquire: you miss what you want because you do not ask God for it; you do ask and you do not get it, because you ask with the wicked intention of spending it on your pleasures.

Prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving, are to be offered for all men—for kings and all in authority, that we may lead a quiet, tranquil life in all godliness and gravity.

The interests of the flesh mean death,
the interests of the Spirit mean life and peace.

Justice brings us welfare,
honesty renders us secure;
my people shall have homes of peace.

And the peacemakers who sow in peace reap righteousness.

EVENING

I do believe I shall yet see
the Eternal good to me, in the land of the living.

Save me, O God,
for the waters are threatening my life;
I am sinking deep in the mud,
where foothold there is none.

Thou didst hear me crying,
"Give ear to my plea";
thou camest at my call,
bidding me, "Fear not."
On thee our fathers did rely,
relied, and thou didst rescue them;
they cried to thee and they were safe,
relied on thee and were not disappointed.

Have pity on me, Eternal, in my weakness,
oh, heal me, for my health is broken,
my soul is in an anguish of dismay.

In my distraction I cried out,
"I am cast out of thy sight!"
But thou hast heard my loud appeal,
when I called for help to thee.

MORNING

For it is better to suffer for doing right (if that should be the will of God) than for doing wrong.

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of goodness!
the Realm of heaven is theirs.
Blessed are you when men denounce you and persecute you and utter all manner of evil against you for my sake; rejoice and exult in it, for your reward is rich in heaven; that is how they persecuted the prophets before you.

Do honour to all, love the brotherhood, not simply those who are kind and reasonable but the surly as well; for it is a merit when from a sense of God one bears the pain of unjust suffering. Where is the credit in standing punishment for having done wrong? No, if you stand suffering for having done right, that is what God counts a merit. And this is your vocation; for when Christ suffered for you, he left you an example, and you must be following his footsteps.

EVENING

"I am myself resurrection and life:
he who believes in me will live, even if he dies.

Let not your hearts be disquieted. In my Father's house there are many abodes; were it not so, would I have told you I was going to prepare a place for you?

God gave us life eternal and this life is in his Son.
He who possesses the Son possesses life.

We are children of God now, beloved; what we are to be is not apparent yet, but we do know that when he appears we are to be like him—for we are to see him as he is.

There are heavenly bodies and also earthly bodies,
what is sown is mortal,
what rises is immortal;
sown inglorious,
it rises in glory;
sown in weakness,
it rises in power;
sown an animate body,
it rises a spiritual body.
Man the first is from the earth, material;
Man the second is from heaven.
As Man the material is, so are the material;
as Man the heavenly is, so are the heavenly.
Thus, as we have borne the likeness of material Man,
so we are to bear the likeness of the heavenly Man.

MORNING

Live like free men, only never make your freedom a pretext for misconduct; live like servants of God.

Make me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new, steadfast spirit in me;
give me a willing spirit as my strength,
that I may teach offenders how thou dealest,
till sinful men turn back to thee.

Make a firm stand then, never slip into any yoke of servitude.

You were called to be free; only, do not make your freedom an opening for the flesh, but serve one another in love. For the entire Law is summed up in one word, in You must love your neighbour as yourself. Lead the life of the Spirit; then you will never satisfy the passions of the flesh. For the passion of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the passion of the Spirit against the flesh—the two are at issue, so that you are not free to do as you please.

As we live by the Spirit, let us be guided by the Spirit.

EVENING

My spirit has joy in God my Saviour.

Thanks to the tender mercy of our God,
who will cause the Dawn to visit us from on high,
to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

That he may rule thy folk aright
and deal out justice for the poor.
He delivers the forlorn.
His rule is like rainfall on the meadows,
like showers that water the land!
Justice and welfare flourish in his days.
He saves the forlorn who cry to him,
the weak and helpless;
rescuing them from outrage and oppression—
they are not cheap to him.

I have endowed him with my spirit,
to carry true religion to the nations.
He shall not crush a broken reed,
nor quench a wick that dimly burns;
loyally shall he set forth true religion,
till far lands long for his instruction.

The people who were dwelling in the darkness
have now seen a great light;
those who were living in a land of shadows,
upon them light has shone.

MORNING

Discipline always seems for the time to be a thing of pain, not of joy; but those who are trained by it reap the fruit of it afterwards in the peace of an upright life.

He will be saved who holds out to the very end.

Join the ranks of those who bear suffering, like a loyal soldier of Christ Jesus.

Whatever happens, be self-possessed, flinch from no suffering, and discharge all your duties.

See how the farmer waits for the precious crop of the land, biding his time patiently till he gets the autumn and the spring rains; have patience yourselves, strengthen your hearts.

As an example of fortitude and endurance, brothers, take the prophets who have spoken in the name of the Lord. See, we call the steadfast happy; you have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the end of the Lord with him, seen that the Lord is very compassionate and pitiful.

EVENING

Wherever I go, thank God, he makes my life a constant pageant of triumph in Christ, diffusing the perfume of his knowledge everywhere by me.

The law of the Spirit brings the life which is in Christ Jesus, and that law has set me free from the law of sin and death. By sending his own Son in the guise of sinful flesh, to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order to secure the fulfilment of the Law's requirements in our lives, as we live and move, not by the flesh but by the Spirit.

I am controlled by the love of Christ, convinced that as One has died for all, then all have died, and that he died for all in order to have the living live no longer for themselves but for him who died and rose for them.

I have learned how to be content wherever I am. I know how to live humbly; I also know how to live in prosperity. I have been initiated into the secret for all sorts and conditions of life, for plenty and for hunger, for prosperity and for privations; in him who strengthens me, I am able for anything.

Now to him who is able to keep you from slipping and to make you stand unblemished and exultant before his glory—to the only God, our saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority before all time and now and for all time: Amen.

MORNING

Keep your tongue from evil,
keep your lips from deceit.

What a forest is set ablaze by a little spark of fire! And the tongue is a fire, a very world of mischief among our members, setting fire to the round circle of existence with a flame fed by hell.

A mild reply turns wrath aside,
but a sharp word will stir up anger.

Seek to be friendly—aim at that.

A soothing tongue means life and peace,
but wild words wound.

You have heard how the men of old were told, "You must not forswear yourself, but discharge your vows to the Lord." But I tell you, you must not swear any oath.

Let what you say be simply "yes" or "no";
whatever goes beyond that springs from evil.

Lay aside falsehood, then, let each tell his neighbour the truth, for we are members one of another.

Let no bad word pass your lips, but only words that are gracious and a means of grace to those who hear them.

EVENING

Try the Eternal; you will find him kind;
happy the man who takes shelter with him!

The Eternal is good to all who look to him,
and his compassion covers all that he has made.

The Eternal is true to all his promises,
and kind in all his dealings;
the Eternal holds up any who are falling,
and raises all who are bowed down.
All thy creatures look to thee,
for their food in season due,
and from thine open hand,
they feast upon thy favour.
The Eternal is near all who call on him,
who call on him sincerely.

Eternal One, thy love is high as heaven,
thy loyalty soars to the very skies,
thy justice is like mighty mountains,
thy judgments are like the deep sea.

Fret not—
Evildoers shall indeed be rooted out.

The humble will inherit the earth.

MORNING

For he who has, to him shall more be given and richly given,
but whoever has not, from him shall be taken even what he has.

My people shall not work in vain,
for they are a race whom the Eternal blesses.

Each will get his own wage for the special work that he has done.

Well then, my beloved brothers, hold your ground, immovable; abound in work for the Lord at all times, for you may be sure that in the Lord your labour is never thrown away.

While daylight lasts, we must be busy with the work of him who sent me: night comes, when no one can do any work.

His master said to him, "Capital, you excellent and trusty servant! You have been trusty in charge of a small sum! I will put you in charge of a large sum. Come and share your master's feast."

EVENING

Lo, I make all things new.

No one pours fresh wine into old wineskins,
otherwise the wineskins burst,
and the wine is spilt, the wineskins are ruined.
Fresh wine they pour into fresh wineskins,
and so both are preserved.

There is a new creation whenever a man comes to be in Christ; what is old is gone, the new has come.

Lay aside the old nature which belonged to your former course of life, putting on the new nature, that divine pattern which has been created in the upright and pious character of the Truth.

I will put my law within them,
writing it on their hearts;
and I will be a God to them,
and they to me a people;
no longer shall they have to teach
their fellows, each instructing each,
how to know the Eternal; for they all
shall know me, both the great and small;
for I will pardon their offences,
their sin I never will recall.

MORNING

Be blameless and innocent, faultless children of God in a crooked and perverse generation where you shine like stars in a dark world.

I wrote that you were not to associate with the immoral. I did not mean you were literally to avoid contact with the immoral in this world, with the lustful and the thievish, or with idolaters; in that case you would have to leave the world altogether.

Make no mistake about this: "bad company is the ruin of good character."

Those who are eager to be rich get tempted and trapped in many senseless and pernicious propensities, that drag men down to ruin and destruction. For love of money is the root of all mischief; it is by aspiring to be rich that certain individuals have gone astray from the faith and found themselves pierced with many a pang of remorse. Shun that, O man of God, aim at integrity, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, modesty; fight in the good fight of the faith, secure that life eternal to which you were called when you voiced the good confession in presence of many witnesses.

Now, beloved, you are forewarned: see that you are not carried away by the error of the lawless and so lose your proper footing; but go on growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and to the day of eternity: Amen.

EVENING

For the Eternal will not leave his people,
never will he forsake his own.

Goodness shall have justice done to it—
the future is with men of upright mind.

He also told them a parable about the need of always praying and never losing heart. "In a certain town," he said, "there was a judge who had no reverence for God and no respect even for man. And in that town there was a widow who used to go and appeal to him for 'Justice against my opponent!' For a while he would not, but afterwards he said to himself, 'Though I have no reverence for God and no respect even for man, still, as this widow is bothering me, I will see justice done to her—not to have her for ever coming and pestering me.'" "Listen," said the Lord, "to what this unjust judge says! And will not God see justice done to his elect who cry to him by day and night?"

It is enough for you to have my grace: it is in weakness that my power is fully felt.

Into the weary he puts power,
and adds new strength to the weak.

MORNING

Be kind to each other, be tender-hearted, be generous to each other as God has been generous to you in Christ.

Even if anyone be detected in some trespass, my brothers, you are spiritual, you must set the offender right in a spirit of gentleness, each of you looking to himself, in case he too is tempted.

If you remember, even when offering your gift at the altar, that your brother has any grievance against you, leave your gift at the very altar and go away; first be reconciled to your brother, then come back and offer your gift.

Peace, then, and the building up of each other, these are what we should aim at.

The right course is to abstain from anything that your brother feels to be a stumbling-block.

We who are strong ought to bear the burdens that the weak make for themselves and us. We are not to please ourselves; each of us must please his neighbour, doing him good by building up his faith, for love hides a host of sins.

EVENING

I will answer his cry and be with him in trouble.

Even to your old age I will be the same,
  when you are grey-haired, still I will sustain you;
I have borne the burden, I will carry it,
  yes, I will carry you and save you.

He has said,
  Never will I fail you, never will I forsake you.
We may say confidently,
  The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.

"Come to me, all ye labouring and burdened,
  and I will refresh you.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
  for I am gentle and humble in heart,
  and you will find your souls refreshed;
  my yoke is kindly and my burden light."

Obey all the commands I have laid on you. And all the time I will be with you, to the very end of the world.

MORNING

Keep your life free from the love of money; be content with what you have, for He has said, Never will I fail you, never will I forsake you.

For love of money is the root of all mischief; it is by aspiring to be rich that certain individuals have gone astray from the faith and found themselves pierced with many a pang of remorse. Shun that, O man of God, aim at integrity, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, modesty.

Moses refused, when he had grown up, to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ill-treatment with God's people he preferred to the passing pleasures of sin, considering obloquy with the messiah to be richer wealth than Egypt's treasures—for he had an eye to the Reward.

Store up no treasures for yourselves on earth,
where moth and rust corrode,
where thieves break in and steal:
store up treasures for yourselves in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust corrode,
where thieves do not break in and steal.

Whatever be your task, work at it heartily, as servants of the Lord and not of men; remember, you are to receive from the Lord the inheritance which is your due; serve Christ your Lord and Master.

EVENING

The Logos was with God.

I was fashioned in the earliest ages,
from the very first, when earth began;
ere he sunk the bases of the mountains,
ere the hills existed, I was born,
when earth and fields were not created,
nor the very first clods of the world.
When he set the heavens up, I was there,
when he drew the Vault o'er the abyss,
when he made the clouds firm overhead.

He who finds me finds life,
and he wins favour from the Eternal;
he who ignores me is injuring himself,
for all who hate me are in love with death.

God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these days at the end he has spoken to us by a Son. He, reflecting God's bright glory and stamped with God's own character, sustains the universe with his word of power.

Go on growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and to the day of eternity: Amen.

MORNING

Keep in mind whatever is true, whatever is worthy, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is attractive, whatever is high-toned, all excellence, all merit.

Let no one who is tried by temptation say, "My temptation comes from God," Everyone is tempted as he is beguiled and allured by his own desire.

From within, from the heart of man, the designs of evil come: sexual vice, stealing, murder, adultery, lust, malice, deceit, sensuality, envying, slander, arrogance, recklessness, all these evils issue from within, and they defile a man.

The good man produces good from the good stored in his heart,
and the evil man evil from his evil:
for a man's mouth utters what his heart is full of.

If for all your evil you know to give your children what is good,
how much more will your Father give the holy Spirit from heaven to those who ask him?

So I tell you, whatever you pray for and ask, believe you have got it, and you shall have it.

EVENING

The Eternal is my strength and shield, my heart has faith in him;
so I am helped, my heart exults, and I sing to his praise.

He has clothed me with victory,
arrayed me in a robe of triumph.

I know how to live humbly; I also know how to live in prosperity. I have been initiated into the secret for all sorts and conditions of life, for plenty and for hunger, for prosperity and for privations. In him who strengthens me I am able for anything.

Shout for joy, O heavens, rejoice, O earth!
O hills, burst into song!
For the Eternal has consoled his people
and pitied his forlorn folk.

Joyfully then shall you draw upon the fountains of deliverance, and sing upon that day:

"Adore the Eternal,
celebrate his name,
tell the nations all that he has done,
record his mighty fame.
Chant the Eternal's praise, his glorious feats;
let the whole world know of it!"

So consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

MORNING

Let your brotherly love continue.

A generous man will have God's blessing,
because he shares his food with poor folk.

But whoever possesses this world's goods, and notices his brother in need, and shuts his heart against him, how can love to God remain in him? Let us put our love not into words or into talk but into deeds, and make it real.

Be bountiful, rich in good works, open-handed and generous, amassing right good treasure for themselves in the world to come, so as to secure the life which is life indeed.

I may distribute all I possess in charity,
but if I have no love,
I make nothing of it.

Whatever you say or do, let everything be done in dependence on the Lord Jesus, giving thanks in his name to God the Father.

EVENING

Attend to prayer.

Your name shall be Jacob no longer, but Israel (Striver-with-God), for you have striven with God.

He also told them a parable about the need of always praying and never losing heart.

His disciples asked him in private, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Nothing can make this kind come out but prayer and fasting."

Blind men came up to him, and Jesus asked them, "Do you believe I can do this?" They said, "Yes, sir." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "As you believe, so your prayer is granted."

And a woman of Canaan came wailing, "Have pity on me, Lord, O Son of David! My daughter is cruelly possessed by a dæmon. Lord, do help me." He replied, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." "No, sir," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table!" At that Jesus replied, "O woman, you have great faith; your prayer is granted as you wish."

MORNING

It is the lowliest of you
all who is great.

But the taxgatherer stood far away and would not lift even his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "O God, have mercy on me for my sins!" I tell you, he went home accepted by God rather than the other man.

The haughty God opposes,
but to the humble he gives grace.

A dispute arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. Jesus took hold of a little child and set it by his side; then he said to them,
"Whoever receives this little child in my name receives me,
and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."

Put on the apron of humility to serve one another, never acting for private ends or from vanity, but humbly considering each other the better man, and each with an eye to the interests of others as well as to his own. Treat one another with the same spirit as you experience in Christ Jesus.

EVENING

I know whom I have trusted, and I am certain that he is able to keep what I have put into his hands, till the great Day.

O Eternal, my Strength, I will exalt thee.
The Eternal is my crag, my stronghold, my deliverer,
my God, my fortalice where I take shelter.
The Eternal is to be praised!—I call to him,
and I am rescued from my foes.
For waves of death broke round me,
floods of destruction burst on me;
I called to the Eternal in my plight,
I cried to my God for aid;
he heard my voice,
my cry came to his ears.

Here is a poor man whose cry the Eternal heard,
and helped him out of all his troubles.
The angels of the Eternal camp around his worshippers,
and rescue them.
Try the Eternal; you will find him kind;
happy the man who takes shelter with him!

He shields all who take shelter with him.
For who is God save the Eternal?
Who is steadfast but our God?—
the God who girdles me with strength.

MORNING

Blessed are the merciful!
they will find mercy.

O man, he has told you what is good;
what does the Eternal ask from you
but to be just and kind
and live in quiet fellowship with your God?

"Which of these three men, in your opinion, proved a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The man who took pity on him." Jesus said to him, "Then go and do the same."

The measure you deal out to others will be dealt out to yourselves.

This precept shines out plain, Love I desire, not sacrifice.
A man sins if he looks down on his neighbour;
but if he pities the poor, blessed is he.
A kind man helps his own life:
a cruel man harms himself.

The wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, forbearing, conciliatory, full of mercy.

EVENING

We are children of God now, beloved, what we are to be is not apparent yet, but we do know that when he appears we are to be like him.

Nobody has ever seen God, but God has been unfolded by the divine One, the only Son, who lies upon the Father's breast.

For it was by him that all things were created, both the seen and the unseen; all things have been created by him and for him.

What is man, that thou art mindful of him?
or the son of man, that thou carest for him?
Crowning him with glory and honour,
putting all things under his feet.

We do not yet see all things controlled by man; what we do see is Jesus, who has been crowned with glory and honour, that by God's grace he might taste death for everyone.

His disciples were together, and though the doors were closed, Jesus entered and stood among them, saying, "Peace be with you!"

His servants will serve and worship him.
Night there shall be none;
they need no lamp or sun to shine upon them,
for the Lord God will illumine them;
and they will reign for ever and ever.

MORNING

Blessed are those who feel poor in spirit!
the Realm of heaven is theirs.

For he who is high and uplifted, the Majestic One,
declares: . . .
"I am with the crushed and humbled soul,
to revive the spirit of the humble."

He has scattered the proud and their purposes,
princes he has dethroned and the poor he has uplifted.

He shall not crush a broken reed,
nor quench a wick that dimly burns.

Pride ends in disaster;
haughtiness means a downfall.
Better be modest among poor folk
than divide plunder with the proud.

Humble yourselves under the strong hand of God, then, so that when the time comes, he may raise you; let all your anxieties fall upon him, for his great interest is in you.

For everyone who uplifts himself will be humbled,
and he who humbles himself will be uplifted.

EVENING

In him you have received a wealth of all blessing.

The crucified body of Christ made you dead to the Law, so that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead. For when we were unspiritual, sinful cravings were active in our members and they made us fruitful to Death; but now we have died to what once held us, so that we can serve in a new way, not under the written code as of old but in the Spirit.

For in me (that is, in my flesh) no good dwells, I know; the wish is there, but not the power of doing what is right. I cannot be good as I want to be, and I do wrong against my wishes. Who will rescue me from this body of death? God will! Thanks be to him through Jesus Christ our Lord!

For though you were dead in your trespasses, He made you live with Christ, He forgave us all our trespasses, when he nailed them to the cross.

It is in Christ that you reach your full life.

Each one of us is granted his own grace, as determined by the full measure of Christ's gift.

MORNING

A fool's eyes go roaming far and wide.

On being asked by the Pharisees when the Reign of God was coming, he answered them, "The Reign of God is not coming as you hope to catch sight of it; no one will say, 'Here it is' or 'There it is,' for the Reign of God is now in your midst."

I tell you truly, whoever will not submit to the Reign of God like a child, will never get into it at all.

Instead of being moulded to this world, have your mind renewed, and so be transformed in nature, able to make out what the will of God is, namely, what is good and acceptable to him and perfect.

Treat one another with the same spirit as you experience in Christ Jesus.

Never pay back evil for evil to anyone; aim to be above reproach in the eyes of all.

The Reign of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, it means righteousness, peace, and joy in the holy Spirit.

Indeed he is close to each one of us, for it is in him that we live and move and exist.

Repent and believe the gospel.

EVENING

Those who know what thou art can trust in thee,
for never wilt thou abandon those who seek thee.

O thou Eternal, well thou knowest that man's course lies not in his own hands; it is not in a man to have control over his actions. So correct us, O Eternal One.

The Eternal is a tower of strength:
good men run in and are secure.

The divine energy is a power within me.

For when we were still in weakness, Christ died in due time for the ungodly.

I bow before thy sacred shrine
to praise thee for thy love so true,
that far excels all ever known of thee;
the very day I call, thine answer comes
with courage to inspire my soul!

I know whom I have trusted, and I am certain that he is able to keep what I have put into his hands, till the great Day.

MORNING

Judge not, that you may not be judged yourselves.

You are inexcusable, if you pose as a judge, for in judging another you condemn yourself.

Who can say, "I have made my heart clean,
I am pure and sinless"?

Why note the splinter in your brother's eye, and fail to see the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Let me take out the splinter from your eye," when there lies the plank in your own eye?

Love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best.

Show me where I have gone wrong;
teach me—
Honest reproof, how sweet it is!

Let us stop critizing one another; rather make up your mind never to put any stumbling-block or hindrance in your brother's way.

EVENING

He who has begun the good work in you will go on completing it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Live, so as to satisfy God.

It is God's will that you should be consecrated.

I will set my laws within their mind,
inscribing them upon their hearts;
I will be a God to them,
and they shall be a People to me.

Work all the more strenuously at your salvation with reverence and trembling, for it is God who in his goodwill enables you to will this and to achieve it.

We must let our steps be guided by such truth as we have attained.

May the God of peace consecrate you through and through! Spirit, soul, and body, may you be kept without break or blame till the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ! He who calls you is faithful, he will do this.

And may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope, graciously encourage your hearts and strengthen them for all good in deed and word.

MORNING

Blessed are the pure in heart!
they will see God.

Who may stand within his sacred shrine?
He only who has clean hands and a heart unstained,
who never sets his mind on what is false,
who never breaks his word.

Then I said, "Alas! I am undone! man of unclean lips that I am, living among a people of unclean lips!"

A leper knelt before him saying, "If you only choose, you can cleanse me"; so he stretched his hand out and touched him, with the words, "I do choose, be cleansed."

For we are the temple of the living God—as God has said,
I will dwell and move among them,
I will be their God and they shall be my people.

As these great promises are ours, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates either flesh or spirit; let us be fully consecrated by reverence for God.

EVENING

He knows how I live;
when he tests me, I shall prove sterling gold.

Set a watch upon my mouth, O thou Eternal,
guard thou the door of my lips.
Uphold me, as thou hast promised, disappoint not my hope, but let me live;
hold me up safe, let me delight for ever in thy will.

We had fathers of our flesh to discipline us, and we yielded to them! Shall we not far more submit to the Father of our spirits, and so live? For while their discipline was only for a time, and inflicted at their pleasure, he disciplines us for our good that we may share in his own holiness.

Then shall the lame leap like a deer,
and dumb tongues sing for joy.
A stainless highroad shall appear . . .
no soul unclean shall tread it,
no impious foot stray over it,
but on it the redeemed shall walk,
those whom the Eternal has set free.

MORNING

Keep your loins girt and your lamps lit.

While daylight lasts, we must be busy with the work of him who sent me: night comes, when no one can do any work.

It is not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord!" who will get into the Realm of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me at that Day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? did we not cast out dæmons in your name? did we not perform many miracles in your name?" Then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from my presence, you workers of iniquity."

Strive to get in through the narrow door; for I tell you, many will try to get in and not be able, once the master of the House has risen and closed the door.

Take care, keep awake and pray.

Your enemy the devil prowls like a roaring lion, looking out for someone to devour. Resist him; keep your foothold in the faith, asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and insight, so that you may lead a life that is worthy of the Lord.

He who has much entrusted to him
will have all the more demanded of him.

EVENING

He saved us, not for any good deeds we had done but from his own pity for us.

You know that the wicked will not inherit the Realm of God? You were once like that; but you washed yourselves clean, you were consecrated, you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

But, dead in trespasses as we were, God was so rich in mercy that for his great love to us he made us live together with Christ (it is by grace you have been saved); together with Christ he raised us and seated us within the heavenly sphere in Christ Jesus, to display throughout ages to come his surpassing wealth of grace and goodness toward us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, as you had faith; it is not your doing but God's gift, not the outcome of what you had done—lest anyone should pride himself on that; God has made us what we are, creating us in Christ Jesus for the good deeds which are prepared beforehand by God as our sphere of action.

MORNING

Let Christian wisdom rule your behaviour to the outside world.

Make the very most of your time; let your talk always have a saving salt of grace about it.

Be wise like serpents and guileless like doves.

Be strictly careful about the life you lead; act like sensible men, not like thoughtless.

Be an ornament to the doctrine of God our Saviour in all respects. For the grace of God has appeared to school us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions and to live a life of self-mastery, of integrity, and of godliness in this present world, awaiting the blessed hope of the appearance of the Glory of the great God and of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us to redeem us from all iniquity and secure himself a clean people, with a zest for good deeds.

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes insipid, what can make it salt again? After that it is fit for nothing, fit only to be flung outside and trodden under foot.

You are the light of the world. A town on the top of a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp to put it under a bowl; they put it on a stand, and it shines for all in the house. So your light is to shine before men that they may see the good you do and glorify your father in heaven.

EVENING

I have told you this, that my joy may be within you and your joy complete.

Amid honour and dishonour, amid evil report and good report, an "impostor" but honest, "unknown" but well-known, dying but here I am alive, chastened but not killed, grieved but always glad, a "pauper" but the means of wealth to many, without a penny but possessed of everything.

For as the sufferings of Christ are abundant in my case, so my comfort is also abundant through Christ.

The Reign of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, it means righteousness, peace, and joy in the holy Spirit.

We must strip off every handicap, strip off sin with its clinging folds, to run our appointed course with steadiness, our eyes fixed upon Jesus as the pioneer and the perfection of faith—upon Jesus who, in order to reach his own appointed joy, steadily endured the cross.

MORNING

Attend to your prayers, maintain your zest for prayer by thanksgiving.

He went off to the hillside to pray. He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

He thrilled with joy at that hour in the holy Spirit, saying, "I praise thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for concealing this from the wise and learned and revealing it to the simple-minded."

Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, let me have three loaves; for a friend of mine travelling has come to my house and I have nothing to set before him.' And suppose he answers from the inside, 'Don't bother me; the door is locked by this time, and my children are in bed with me. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, though he will not get up and give you anything because you are a friend of his, he will at least rise and give you whatever you want, because you persist. So I tell you,

ask and the gift will be yours,
seek and you will find,
knock and the door will open to you;
for everyone who asks receives,
the seeker finds,
the door is opened to anyone who knocks."

EVENING

The Eternal shepherds me,
I lack for nothing.

The God who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, surely He will give us everything besides!

Well your heavenly Father knows you need all that. Seek God's Realm and his goodness, and all that will be yours over and above.

For God the Eternal is a sun and shield,
favour and honour he bestows;
he never denies bliss to the upright.

God will supply all your own needs from his wealth in Glory in Christ Jesus. His commands are not irksome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. Our faith, that is the conquest which conquers the world. Who is the world's conqueror but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

My cup is brimming over;
yes, and all through my life
Goodness and Kindness wait on me.
the Eternal's guest
within his household evermore.

MORNING

When you have done all you are bidden, say "We are but servants; we have only done our duty."

Which of you, with a servant out ploughing or shepherding, will say to him when he comes in from the field, "Come at once and take your place at table"? Will the man not rather say to him, "Get something ready for my supper; gird yourself and wait on me till I eat and drink; then you can eat and drink yourself"?

Enough for the scholar to fare like his teacher,
and the servant like his lord.

After washing their feet and putting on his robe, he lay down again. "Do you know," he said to them, "what I have been doing to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right: that is what I am. Well, if I have washed your feet, I who am your Lord and Teacher, you are bound to wash one another's feet; for I have been setting you an example."

By God's grace I am what I am.

For it is by grace you have been saved, as you had faith; it is not your doing but God's gift, not the outcome of what you have done—lest anyone should pride himself on that; God has made us what we are, creating us in Christ Jesus for the good deeds which are prepared beforehand by God as our sphere of action.

EVENING

For who is God save the Eternal?
Who is steadfast save our God?

To the kind thou provest kind, and true to the true,
to the pure thou provest pure,
the humble thou wilt raise,
the haughty thou wilt mark and abase.
O Eternal! thou art my lamp,
O Eternal! thou wilt make my darkness shine;
God is unerring in his ways,
the Eternal's promises are tried and true;
he shields all who take shelter with him.

You have come to the God of all as judge, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus who mediates the new covenant.

Ours is no high priest who cannot have sympathy with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every respect like ourselves, yet without sinning. So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence.

Such was the high priest for us, saintly, innocent, unstained, lifted high above the heavens, far from all contact with the sinful, one who has no need, like yonder high priests, day by day to offer sacrifices first for their own sins and then for those of the People—he did that once for all in offering up himself, a Son who is made perfect for ever.

MORNING

Put on the character of the Lord Jesus Christ, and never think how to gratify the cravings of the flesh.

For Christ's sake I have learned to count my former gains a loss; indeed I count anything a loss, compared to the supreme value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, in order to gain Christ.

You must lay aside the old nature which belonged to your former course of life, that nature which crumbles to ruin under the passions of oral deceit, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind. Lay aside falsehood, then. Be angry but do not sin; never let the sun set upon your exasperation. Let no bad word pass your lips, but only such speech as is good for edification, as occasion may require, words that are gracious and a means of grace to those who hear.

Drop all bitter feeling and passion and anger and clamouring and insults, together with all malice; be kind to each other, be tenderhearted, be generous to each other as God has been generous to you in Christ.

For all of you who had yourselves baptized into Christ have taken on the character of Christ.

EVENING

Shadowed by thy wings
I sing thy praise.

Happy the man who never goes by the advice of the ungodly,
but finds his joy in the Eternal's law.
He is like a tree planted by a stream, that bears fruit in due season, with
leaves that never fade.

When judgments come, the ungodly shall not stand, nor shall the sinful last
in the community of the just.

The good man's words are wise,
his talk is true;
the Eternal's law is in his heart,
his footsteps never falter.
I take delight in thy commands, so dear to me,
I adore thy commands and muse upon thine orders.

May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart
please thee, Eternal One, my strength and saviour.

MORNING

Go on growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man.

Let us pass on to what is mature, leaving elementary Christian doctrine behind.

I would know him in the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, with my nature transformed to die as he died, to see if I too can attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained this or am already perfect, but I press forward to appropriate it, because I have been appropriated myself by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I for one do not consider myself to have appropriated this; my one thought is, by forgetting what lies behind me and straining to what lies before me, to press on to the goal for the prize of God's high call in Christ Jesus. For all those of our number who are mature, this must be the point of view; God will reveal that to any of you who look at things differently. Only, we must let our steps be guided by such truth as we have attained.

We are to hold by the truth, and by our love to grow up wholly into Him.

EVENING

God is not ashamed to be called their God; he has prepared a City for them.

Has not God chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and to inherit the realm which he has promised to those who love him?

Heirs of God, heirs along with Christ—for we share his sufferings in order to share his glory.

I have fought in the good fight; I have run my course; I have kept the faith. Now the crown of a good life awaits me, with which the Lord, that just Judge, will reward all who have loved and longed for his appearance.

Then shall the King say to those on his right, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, come into your inheritance in the realm prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Then I saw the holy City, the new Jerusalem, descending from God out of heaven. And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, crying,

"Lo, God's dwelling-place is with men,
with men will he dwell;
they shall be his people,
and God will himself be with them."

MORNING

A man slack at his work
is as bad as a waster.

"Let me sleep for a little, a little,
let me fold my hands for a little, to rest"—
yes, and poverty will pounce on you,
want will overpower you.

Copy us; we did not loaf in your midst, we did not take free meals from anyone; no, toiling hard at our trade, we worked night and day, so as not to be a burden to any of you.

Endeavour to live quietly, attend to your own business, and—as we charged you—work with your hands, so that your life may be respected by the outside world.

Silver, gold, or apparel I never coveted; you know yourselves how these hands of mine provided everything for my own needs and for my companions. I showed you how this was the way to work hard and succour the needy, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, who said, "To give is happier than to get."

EVENING

Can thy love be recounted in the grave?

Man goes to his long, long home,
and mourners pass along the street,
on the day when the silver cord is snapped,
and the golden lamp drops broken,
when the pitcher breaks at the fountain,
the wheel breaks at the cistern,
when the dust returns to earth once more,
the spirit to God who gave it.

Then with a loud cry Jesus said, "Father, I trust my spirit to thy hands," and with these words he expired.

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then it follows that by means of Jesus God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

If dead men never rise, Christ did not rise either; and if Christ did not rise, your faith is futile. Those who have slept the sleep of death in Christ have perished.

But it is not so! Christ did rise from the dead, he was the first to be reaped of those who sleep in death.

What is sown is mortal,
what rises is immortal;
sown inglorious,
it rises in glory;
sown in weakness,
it rises in power.

MORNING

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good deeds, not ceasing to meet together, as is the habit of some, but admonishing one another.

Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, the church of the Lord which he has purchased with his own blood.

If we live and move within the light, as he is within the light, then we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from every sin.

As the human body is one and has many members, all the members of the body forming one body for all their number, so is it with Christ. For by one Spirit we have all been baptized into one Body, Jews or Greeks, slaves or freemen; we have all been imbued with one Spirit.

Thus
if one member suffers,
all the members share its suffering;
if one member is honoured,
all the members share its honour.

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, to consecrate her, to have the church as his very own, standing before him in all her glory, with never a spot or wrinkle or any such flaw, but consecrated and unblemished.

EVENING

In all this we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

The Eternal is the fortress of my life;
whom shall I dread?

The Spirit assists us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray aright, but the Spirit pleads for us.

We know also that those who love God, those who have been called in terms of his purpose, have his aid and interest in everything.

My dear children, I am writing to you,
because your sins are forgiven for his sake:
fathers, I am writing to you,
because you know him who is from the very beginning:
young men, I am writing to you,
because you have conquered the evil One.
children, I have written to you,
because you know the Father:
fathers, I have written to you,
because you know him who is from the very beginning.

By the action of his power within us [He] is able to do all, aye, far more, than we can ever ask or imagine.

MORNING

You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

I pray not that thou wilt take them out of the world, but that thou wilt keep them from the evil One.

Keep cool, keep awake. Your enemy the devil prowls like a roaring lion, looking out for someone to devour. Resist him; keep your foothold in the faith; the God of all grace will repair, recruit, and strengthen you.

Let us pass on then to what is mature, leaving elementary Christian doctrine behind.

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

Work strenuously at your salvation with reverence and trembling, for it is God who in his goodwill enables you to will this and to achieve it. In all that you do, avoid grumbling and disputing, so as to be blameless and innocent, faultless children of God in a crooked and perverse generation where you shine like stars in a dark world.

EVENING

The Lord has sworn, and he will not change his mind.

In making a promise to Abraham God swore by himself (since he could swear by none greater), I will indeed bless you and multiply you. For as men swear by a greater than themselves, and as an oath means to them a guarantee that ends any dispute, God, in his desire to afford the heirs of the Promise a special proof of the solid character of his purpose, interposed with an oath; so that by these two solid facts (the Promise and the Oath), where it is impossible for God to be false, we refugees might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us, anchoring the soul to it safe and sure.

Let those who by the will of God are suffering trust their souls to him, their faithful Creator, as they continue to do right.

> "Thou didst found the earth at the beginning, O Lord,
> and the heavens are the work of thy hands;
> they shall perish, but thou remainest,
> they shall all be worn out like a garment,
> thou wilt roll them up like a mantle and they shall be changed,
> but thou art the same,
> and thy years never fail."

I know whom I have trusted, and I am certain that he is able to keep what I have put into his hands, till the great Day.

MORNING

They all grew drowsy and went to sleep. But at midnight the cry arose, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!"

Watch then, for you never know when the Lord of the House will come, in the late evening or at midnight or at cock-crow or in the morning. Watch, in case he comes suddenly and finds you asleep. Watch: I say it to you, and I say it to all.

Attend to your prayers, maintain your zest for prayer by thanksgiving.

Let Christian wisdom rule your behaviour to the outside world; make the very most of your time; let your talk always have a saving salt of grace about it, and learn how to answer any question put to you.

Make it your whole concern to furnish your faith with resolution, resolution with intelligence, intelligence with self-control, self-control with steadfastness, steadfastness with godliness, godliness with brotherliness, and brotherliness with Christian love.

Keep cool, keep awake. Your enemy the devil prowls like a roaring lion looking out for someone to devour. Resist him; keep your foothold in the faith, and learn to pay the same tax of suffering as the rest of your brotherhood throughout the world. Once you have suffered for a little, the God of all grace who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will repair, recruit, and strengthen you. The dominion is his for ever and ever: Amen.

EVENING

My God will supply all your own needs from his wealth in Glory in Christ Jesus.

Full authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.

Never trouble about what you are to eat or drink in life,
nor about what you are to put on your body;
surely life means more than food,
surely the body means more than clothes!

If God so clothes the grass of the field which blooms to-day and is thrown to-morrow into the furnace, will not he much more clothe you? O men, how little you trust him!

To let you see that the Son of man has power on earth to forgive sins—he said to the paralytic, "Rise, I tell you, lift your pallet, and go home." And he rose, lifted his pallet at once, and went off before them all.

Jesus said to him, "Anything can be done for one who believes. Be no more unbelieving but believe."

MORNING

The wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, forbearing, conciliatory, full of mercy and wholesome fruit, unambiguous, straight-forward; and the peacemakers who sow in peace reap righteousness.

Live a life worthy of your calling, with perfect modesty and gentleness, showing forbearance to one another patiently, zealous in love to preserve the unity of the Spirit by binding peace upon yourselves. For there is one God and Father of all, who is over us all, who pervades us all, who is within us all.

Love is very patient, very kind, knows no jealousy, makes no parade, gives itself no airs, is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful; love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient.

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, good temper, kindliness, generosity, fidelity, gentleness, self-control. As we live by the Spirit, let us be guided by the Spirit; let us have no vanity, no provoking, no envy of one another.

Even if anyone is detected in some trespass, brothers, you are spiritual, you must set the offender right in a spirit of gentleness. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

EVENING

Never will I fail you, never will I forsake you.

It is the Eternal who leads you, he will be with you, he will never fail you nor forsake you: fear not, neither be dismayed.

I am with you, I will guard you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land; I will never leave you till I have done what I have promised you.

When my father and mother forsake me,
the Eternal will take care of me.

When poor, forlorn folk vainly seek for water,
  with tongues that are parched by thirst,
I the Eternal will answer them,
  I Israel's God will not forsake them;
on the bare heights I will open rivers,
  and in the valleys fountains,
I will make deserts into lakes,
  and dry land into springs of water.

The first time I had to defend myself, I had no supporters; everyone deserted me. But the Lord supported me and gave me strength.

All the time I will be with you, to the very end of the world.

MORNING

Pray to your Father who is in secret,
and your Father who sees what is secret will reward you.

You must not be like the hypocrites,
for they like to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the streetcorners, so as to be seen by men.

The real worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in reality; for these are the worshippers that the Father desires. God is Spirit, and his worshippers must worship him in Spirit and in reality.

Also, whenever you stand up to pray, if you have anything against anybody, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Ask in faith, with never a doubt; for the doubtful man is like surge of the sea whirled and swayed by the wind; double-minded, wavering at every turn!

Make your requests known to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; so shall God's peace, that surpasses all our dreams, keep guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

EVENING

Fear not, you little flock, for your Father is delighted to give you the Realm.

My realm does not belong to this world; if my realm did belong to this world, my men would have fought.

The Reign of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, it means righteousness, joy, and peace in the holy Spirit; he who serves Christ on these lines, is acceptable to God.

The kings of the Gentiles rule over them,
and their authorities take the name of "Benefactor":
not so with you.
He who is greatest among you must be like the youngest,
and he who is chief like a servant.
Which is the greater, guest or servant? Is it not the guest?
But I am among you as a servant.

You have stood by me through my trials; so, as my Father has assigned me royal power, I assign you the right of eating and drinking at my table in my Realm.

"The rule of the world has passed to our Lord and his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever."

MORNING

Truly, truly I tell you, no one can see God's Realm unless he is born from above

God tempts no one. Everyone is tempted as he is beguiled and allured by his own desire. All we are given is good, and all our endowments are faultless, descending from above, from the Father of the heavenly lights.

It was his own will that we should be born by the Word of the truth, to be a kind of firstfruits among his creatures.

You are born anew of immortal, not of mortal seed, by the living, lasting word of God.

So off with malice, guile, insincerity, envy, and slander of every kind! Like newly-born children, thirst for the pure, spiritual milk to make you grow up to salvation.

He chose us in him to be consecrated and unblemished in his sight, destining us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ the Beloved, in whom we enjoy our redemption, the forgiveness of our trespasses, by the blood he shed. He has granted us complete insight and understanding of the open secret of his will, showing us how it was the purpose of his design so to order it in the fullness of the ages that all things in heaven and earth alike should be gathered up in Christ.

EVENING

The Lord disciplines the man he loves.

Why does God give sufferers light,
  and life to men in bitter despair,
who long for death, and long in vain,
  glad could they but reach the grave?
Why does God give light to a man at his wits' end,
  a man he has hemmed in?

God saves the sufferer by suffering,
  and by adversity gets them to listen;
Let not his chastening make you rage at him;
  let not the cost of discipline deter you.

My soul is now disquieted. What am I to say? "Father, save me from this hour?" Nay, it is something else that has brought me to this hour: I will say, "Father, glorify thy name."

It is as he suffered by his temptations he is able to help the tempted.

MORNING

Do not drop that confidence of yours; it carries with it a rich hope of reward.

I tell you truly, if you had faith the size of a grain of mustard-seed, you could say to this hill, "Move from here to there," and remove it would; nothing would be impossible for you.

Keep in mind whatever is true, whatever is worthy, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is attractive, whatever is high-toned, all excellence, all merit.

Jesus said to him, " 'If you can'! Anything can be done for one who believes." At once the father of the boy cried out, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

If we do not faint we shall reap our harvest at the opportune season.

I have fought in the good fight; I have run my course; I have kept the faith. Now the crown of a good life awaits me, with which the Lord, that just Judge, will reward me on the great Day—and not only me but all who have loved and longed for his appearance.

EVENING

Your sins are forgiven.

Though you were dead in your trespasses, your flesh uncircumcised, He made you live with Christ, He forgave us all our trespasses, He cancelled the regulations that stood against us—all these obligations he set aside when he nailed them to the cross.

He saved us, not for any good deeds we had done but from his own pity for us, by renewal under the holy Spirit which he poured upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs to the hope of life eternal.

So up with your listless hands! Strengthen your weak knees! And make straight paths for your feet. Let no lame souls be dislocated, rather set them right. Aim at peace with all, at that consecration without which no one will ever see the Lord.

I press forward to appropriate it, because I have been appropriated myself by Christ Jesus. I do not consider myself to have appropriated this; my one thought is, by forgetting what lies behind me and straining to what lies before me, to press on to the goal for the prize of God's high call in Christ Jesus.

MORNING

When Christ suffered for you, he left you an example, and you must follow his footsteps.

He committed no sin,
no guile was ever found upon his lips;
he was reviled and made no retort,
he suffered and never threatened.

He went about doing good.

Christ Jesus testified to the good confession before Pontius Pilate.

Though he was divine by nature, he did not set store upon equality with God, but emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant.

Even if anyone be detected in some trespass, my brothers, you are spiritual, you must set the offender right in a spirit of gentleness, each of you looking to himself, in case he too is tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

So by all the stimulus of Christ, live in harmony, with the same feelings of love, never acting for private ends or from vanity, but humbly considering each other the better man, and each with an eye to the interests of others as well as to his own.

For the Son of man himself has not come to be served but to serve.

EVENING

Clear away all the foul rank growth of malice, and make a soil of modesty for the Word, which roots itself inwardly with power to save your souls.

For the grace of God schools us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions and to live a life of self-mastery, of integrity, and of godliness in this present world, awaiting the blessed hope of the appearance of the Glory of the great God and of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us to redeem us from all iniquity and secure himself a clean people with a zest for good works.

It is new heavens and a new earth that we expect, as He has promised, and in them dwells righteousness. Then, beloved, as you are expecting this, be eager to be found by him unspotted and unblemished in serene assurance.

Pray Him out of the wealth of his glory to grant you a mighty increase of strength by his Spirit in the inner man. May you be fixed and founded in love!

MORNING

There is a God able to save us, the God whom we serve.

The word of his grace is able to upbuild you and give you your inheritance among all the consecrated.

Trust God, he will never let you be tempted beyond what you can stand, but, when temptation comes, he will provide the way out of it, so that you can bear up under it.

We are a colony of heaven, and we wait for the Saviour who comes from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body that belongs to our low estate till it resembles the body of his Glory.

When God acquits, who shall condemn? What can ever part us from Christ's love? Can anguish or calamity or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or the sword? No, in all this we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, no powers of the Height or of the Depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to part us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Now to him who by the action of his power within us can do all things, aye far more than we ever ask or imagine, to him be glory throughout all generations for ever and ever: Amen.

EVENING

My God in whom I trust!

To those who wait for him the Eternal is kind,
a stronghold in the day of trouble;

Though nations rage, and realms be shaken,
  though his thunders make the world dissolve:
    the Lord of Hosts is at our side,
    the God of Jacob is our fortress.

O Eternal! thou art my lamp,
O Eternal! thou wilt make my darkness shine;
God is unerring in his ways,
the Eternal's promises are tried and true;
he shields all who take shelter with him.
For who is God save the Eternal?
Who is steadfast save our God?

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing?
Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unless your Father wills it.
Fear not, then, you are worth far more than sparrows!

MORNING

Let your love be a real thing, with a loathing for evil.

Thou art no God to take delight in vice,
  No evil man is any guest of thine,
Six things the Eternal hates,
  ay, seven he loathes:
haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
  hands that shed innocent blood,
a mind with crafty plans,
  feet eager to go mischief-making,
a false witness who tells lies,
  and him who sows discord within his group.

No servant can serve two masters:
you cannot serve God and Mammon.

What is lofty in the view of man is loathsome in the eyes of God.

Ungodliness I hate and I abhor, but I do love thy law.
Let my lips praise thee for teaching me thine orders;
  let me sing of thy word, for just are all thy commands;
  let thy hand come to my help, for I have chosen to obey thee.

EVENING

Religion is of service in all directions; it contains the promise of life both for the present and for the future.

Eternal One, thy love is high as heaven,
  thy loyalty soars to the very skies,
thy justice is like mighty mountains,
  thy judgments are like the deep sea.
Thy providence is over man and beast;
To thee men come for shelter
  in the shadow of thy wings;
they have their fill of choice food in thy house,
  the stream of thy delights to drink;
for life's own fountain is within thy presence,
  and in thy smile we have the light of life.

Be sure that everyone who practises righteousness is born of him. "Born of him!" Think what a love the Father has for us, in letting us be called "children of God!" And such we are.

What never entered the mind of man,
God has prepared all that for those who love him.
And God has revealed it to us.
Thou wilt reveal the path to life,
  to the full joy of thy presence,
  to the bliss of being close to thee for ever.

MORNING

Thy Reign begin,
thy will be done
on earth as in heaven!

It is God's will that you should be consecrated, that you abstain from sensual passion; no one is to defraud or overreach his brother.

Instead of merely working when their eye is on you, like those who court human favour, do God's will from the heart, like servants of Christ, by rendering service with goodwill as to the Lord and Master, not to men, for it is the will of God that by your honest lives you should silence the ignorant charges of foolish persons. Live like free men, only never make your freedom a pretext for misconduct.

Never revenge yourselves, beloved, but let the Wrath of God have its way;
if your enemy is hungry, feed him,
if he is thirsty, give him drink;
for in this way you will make him
feel a burning sense of shame.
Never let evil get the better of you; get the better of evil by doing good.

EVENING

I will heal them from their hurt of sin,
freely will I love them.

It is your own iniquities that interfere
between your God and you.

"Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth"—
it is the Eternal speaking—
"I have reared, have brought up sons,
and they have rebelled against me;
Their sins have made me angry for a while,
I struck them in my wrath and turned away
and they went on, wilful, rebellious.
I marked them," the Eternal says.
"But now I heal them, I will give them rest,
and recompense them with all consolation."

It was in him that the divine Fullness willed to settle without limit, and by him to reconcile in his own person all on earth and all in heaven alike, in a peace made by the blood of his cross. Once you were estranged yourselves, your hearts hostile to him in evil-doing; but now he has reconciled you by dying in his mortal body, so as to set you consecrated and unblemished and irreproachable in his presence.

MORNING

Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the Realm of heaven.

Reverence for the Eternal trains men to be wise,
and to be humble is the way to honour.
A man may think what he will say,
but at the moment the word comes to him from the Eternal.
For he who is high and uplifted, the Majestic One,
he who sits enthroned for evermore, declares:
"I sit on high, enthroned, the Majestic One,
and I am with the crushed and humbled soul,
to revive the spirit of the humble,
and to put heart into the crushed."

Put on the apron of humility to serve one another, for
the haughty God opposes,
but to the humble he gives grace.
Humble yourselves under the strong hand of God, then, so that when the time comes, he may raise you.

Adorn yourselves with the immortal beauty of a gentle, modest spirit, which in the sight of God is of rare value.

EVENING

It is no longer I who live, Christ lives in me.

The Spirit of God dwells within you.

The Spirit assists us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray aright, but the Spirit pleads for us with sighs that are beyond words, and He who searches the human heart knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, since the Spirit pleads before God for the saints.

"The Lord" means the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is open freedom. But we all mirror the glory of the Lord with face unveiled, and so we are being transformed into the same likeness as himself, passing from one glory to another—for this comes of the Lord the Spirit.

You are born anew of immortal, not of mortal seed, by the living, lasting word of God; for
All flesh is like the grass,
and all its glory like the flower of grass:
the grass withers
and the flower fades,
but the word of the Lord lasts for ever—
and that is the word of the gospel for you.

MORNING

Praying at all times in the Spirit with all manner of prayer and entreaty—be alive to that, attend to it unceasingly.

Pray to God that you may not go wrong.

Pray that your love may be more and more rich in knowledge and all manner of insight, enabling you to have a sense of what is vital, so that you may be transparent and no harm to anyone, your life all covered with that harvest of righteousness which Jesus Christ produces, to the glory and the praise of God.

Pray for one another, that you may be healed; the prayers of the righteous have a powerful effect.

Pray for those who persecute you.

Pray in the Spirit, pray with the mind.

The Eternal listens
  to the voice of my appeal;
because he bends his ear to me
  I will pray to him all my life.
Return to thy rest, O my soul,
  for the Eternal has dealt lovingly with thee.

EVENING

Be free from all anxieties.

He entered a certain village, and a woman called Martha welcomed him to her house. She had a sister called Mary, who seated herself at the feet of the Lord to listen to his talk. Now Martha was so busy attending to them that she grew worried; she came up and said, "Lord, is it all one to you that my sister has left me to do all the work alone? Come, tell her to lend me a hand." The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, Mary has chosen the best dish, and she is not to be dragged away from it."

Love not the world, nor yet what is in the world; if anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the proud glory of life, belongs not to the Father but to the world; and the world is passing away with its desire, while he who does the will of God remains for ever.

Peace I leave to you, my peace I give to you; I give it not as the world gives its "Peace!" Let not your heart be disquieted or timid.

Let all your anxieties fall upon him, for his great interest is in you.

May the Lord of peace himself grant you peace continually, whatever comes.

MORNING

If you abide by what I say, you are really disciples of mine.

Many will be repelled, they will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will rise and mislead many. Love will grow cold, by the increase of iniquity; but he will be saved who holds out to the very end.

Watch, stand firm in the faith, play the man, be strong! Let all you do be done in love.

For many—as I have often told you and tell you now with tears—many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Destruction is their fate, the belly is their god, they glory in their shame, these men of earthly mind! But we are a colony of heaven, and we wait for the Saviour who comes from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body that belongs to our low estate till it resembles the body of his Glory.

Do not drop that confidence of yours; it carries with it a rich hope of reward. Steady patience is what you need, so that after doing the will of God you may receive what you were promised.

My just man is to live on by his faith.

We are not the men to shrink back and be lost, but to have faith and so to win our souls.

EVENING

Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might.

For I am proud of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who has faith, for the Jew first and for the Greek as well. God's righteousness is revealed in it by faith and for faith—as it is written, By faith shall the righteous live.

In Him who strengthens me, I am able for anything.

Each receives his manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. One man is granted words of wisdom by the Spirit, another words of knowledge by the same Spirit; one man in the same Spirit has the gift of faith, another in the one Spirit has gifts of healing; another prophecy, another the gift of distinguishing spirits. But all these effects are produced by one and the same Spirit, apportioning them severally to each individual as he pleases.

May his glorious might nerve you with full power to endure and to be patient cheerfully, whatever comes, thanking the Father who has qualified us to share the lot of the saints in the Light.

MORNING

Spurn not the Eternal's schooling,
never be weary of his discipline.

Remember how the Eternal your God led you through the desert to teach you your need of him, to prove you.

He treats us not according to our sins,
he deals not with us as our guilt deserves.

You must keep this in mind, that the Eternal your God disciplines you as a man disciplines his son.

Just are thy dealings, I know—thou wert faithful in afflicting me.
It is good for me to have been in trouble—to learn thy will.

Son though he was, he learned by all he suffered how to obey, and by being thus perfected he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Compare him who steadily endured all that hostility from sinful men, so as to keep your own hearts from fainting and failing.

EVENING

'Tis I the Eternal who call you by name.

When the lamp of God was still burning, and Samuel was lying in the temple of the Eternal beside the ark of God, then the Eternal called, "Samuel! Samuel!" He answered, "Here I am."

He dropped to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you?" he asked. "I am Jesus," he said, "and you persecute me. Get up and go into the city; there you will be told what you have to do."

Now there was a disciple called Ananias in Damascus. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He said, "I am here, Lord." And the Lord said to him. "Go away to the street called 'The Straight Street,' and ask at the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus called Saul. He is praying at this very moment, and he has seen a man called Ananias enter and lay his hands upon him to bring back his sight."

The sheep listen to his voice; he calls his sheep by name and leads them out. He goes in front of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

The throne of God and the Lamb shall be within it,
with the worship of his servants—
they shall see his face,
and his name is to be on their foreheads.

MORNING

The victory is ours, thank God! He makes it ours by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might; put on God's armour, so as to be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil. For we have to struggle, not with blood and flesh but with the angelic Rulers, the angelic Authorities, the potentates of the dark present, the spirit-forces of evil in the heavenly sphere. So take God's armour, that you may be able to make a stand upon the evil day and hold your ground by overcoming all the foe.

Hold your ground, tighten the belt of truth about your loins, wear integrity as your coat of mail, and have your feet shod with the stability of the gospel of peace; above all, take faith as your shield, to enable you to quench all the fire-tipped darts flung by the evil one, put on salvation as your helmet, and take the Spirit as your sword (that is, the word of God), praying at all times in the Spirit, with all manner of prayer and entreaty—be alive to that, attend to it unceasingly.

Never let evil get the better of you; get the better of evil by doing good.

EVENING

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has put down death and brought life and immortality to light by the gospel.

His power divine has bestowed every requisite for life and godliness, that by means of them you may escape the corruption produced within the world by lust, and participate in the divine nature.

Jesus said, "I am myself resurrection and life:
he who believes in me will live, even if he dies,
and no one who lives and believes in me will ever die."

This Jesus God raised, as we can all bear witness. Uplifted then by God's right hand and receiving from the Father the long-promised holy Spirit, he has poured on us what you now see and hear.

As One has died for all, then all have died, and that he died for all in order to have the living live no longer for themselves but for him who died and rose for them. There is a new creation whenever a man comes to be in Christ; what is old is gone, the new has come.

Take care lest there be a wicked, unbelieving heart in any of you, moving you to be apostates from the living God. For we only participate in Christ provided that we hold firm to the very end the confidence with which we started.

MORNING

. . . A steward of God. . . .

He who reaps in summer is a man of sense:
he who sleeps through harvest does a shameful thing.

He said, "I knew you were a hard man, sir, reaping where you never sowed and gathering where you never winnowed. So I was afraid; I went and hid your money!" His master said, "You knew, did you, that I reap where I never sowed and gather where I never winnowed! Well then, you should have handed my money to the bankers, and I would have got my capital with interest when I came back."

He who is faithful with a trifle is also faithful with a large trust,
and he who is dishonest with a trifle is also dishonest with a large trust.
So if you are not faithful with dishonest mammon,
how can you ever be trusted with true Riches?

Charge the rich of this world not to be supercilious, and not to fix their hopes on so uncertain a thing as riches but on the living God who richly provides us with all the joys of life; bid them be bountiful, rich in good works, open-handed and generous, amassing right good treasure for themselves in the world to come, so as to secure the life which is life indeed.

EVENING

He got up and went off to his father. But when he was still far away, his father saw him and felt pity for him and ran to fall upon his neck and kiss him.

"Which of you with a hundred sheep, if he loses one, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one till he finds it? When he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders with joy. So, I tell you, there will be joy in heaven over a single sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine good people who do not need to repent."

A man will hardly die for the just—though one might bring oneself to die, if need be, for a good man. But God proves his love for us by this, that Christ died for us when we were still sinners.

The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I don't deserve to be called your son any more." But the father said to his servants, "Quick, bring the best robe and put it on him, give him a ring for his hand and sandals for his feet, and bring the fatted calf, kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for my son here was dead and he has come to life, he was lost and he is found." So they began to make merry.

Everyone who practises righteousness is born of him. "Born of him!" Think what a love the Father has for us, in letting us be called "children of God!" And such we are.

MORNING

There is a new creation whenever a man comes to be in Christ.

For he is our peace, he who has made both of us a unity and destroyed the barrier which kept us apart; in his own flesh he put an end to the feud of the Law with its code of commands, so as to make peace by the creation of a new Man in himself.

You must lay aside the old nature which belonged to your former course of life, that nature which crumbles to ruin under the passions of moral deceit, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, putting on the new nature, that divine pattern which has been created in the upright and pious character of the Truth.

So off with all malice, all guile and insincerity and envy and slander of every kind! Like newly-born children, thirst for the pure, spiritual milk to make you grow up to salvation.

As God's own chosen, then, as consecrated and beloved, be clothed with compassion, kindliness, humility, gentleness, and good temper—forbear and forgive each other in any case of complaint; as Christ forgave you, so must you forgive. And above all you must be loving, for love is the link of the perfect life.

EVENING

With thee I take shelter;
in the shadow of thy wings.

Let billows roar and foam,
  let mountains shake under the storm:
    the Lord of Hosts is at our side,
    the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Age after age, Lord, thou hast been our home;
  from all eternity thou hast been God,
ere ever hills were born,
  ere ever earth and world were made.

Lift high your eyes, look up;
  who made these stars?
he marshals them in order,
  not one fails to appear.
Why do you complain, O Jacob,
"My fate the Eternal never notices."
The Eternal is an everlasting God,
  the maker of the world from end to end:
He never faints, never is weary,
  his insight is unsearchable.

In me you may have peace; in the world you have trouble, but courage. I have conquered the world.

MORNING

May the Lord make you increase and excel in love to one another.

Be angry but do not sin; never let the sun set upon your exasperation, give the devil no chance.

He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows generously will reap a generous harvest. Everyone is to give what he has made up his mind to give; there is to be no grudging or compulsion about it, for God loves the giver who gives cheerfully. God is able to bless you with ample means, so that you may always have quite enough for any emergency of your own and ample besides for any kind act to others.

The churches of Macedonia, amid a severe ordeal of poverty, have poured out a flood of rich generosity; I can testify that up to their means, aye and beyond their means, they have given—begging me of their own accord, most urgently, for the favour of contributing to the support of the saints.

Love your neighbour as you love yourself.

"Which of these three men, in your opinion, proved a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The man who took pity on him." Jesus said to him, "Then go and do the same."

Abound in work for the Lord at all times, for you may be sure that in the Lord your labour is never thrown away.

EVENING

He is the head of the Body.

As the human body is one and has many members, all the members of the body forming one body for all their number, so is it with Christ. For by one Spirit we have all been baptized into one Body, Jews or Greeks, slaves or freemen; we have all been imbued with one Spirit.

If one member suffers,
all the members share its suffering;
if one member is honoured,
all the members share its honour.

You were outside Christ, aliens to the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the Promise, devoid of hope and God within the world. Whereas now, within Christ Jesus, you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Rekindle the divine gift which you received, for God has not given us a timid spirit but a spirit of power and love and discipline.

Be filled with the Spirit, and render thanks to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ at all times and for all things.

MORNING

The worries of the world and the delight of being rich and all the other passions come in to choke the word; so it proves unfruitful.

You envy and covet, you miss what you want because you do not ask God for it; you do ask and you do not get it, because you ask with the wicked intention of spending it on your pleasures.

We bring nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it; if we have food and clothes, we must be content with that. Those who are eager to be rich get tempted and trapped in many senseless and pernicious propensities, that drag men down to ruin and destruction. For love of money is the root of all mischief; it is by aspiring to be rich that certain individuals have gone astray from the faith and found themselves pierced with many a pang of remorse.

What profit will it be for a man to gain the whole world and lose or forfeit himself.

For Christ's sake I have learned to count my former gains a loss; indeed I count anything a loss, compared to the supreme value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have lost everything (I count it all the veriest refuse) in order to gain Christ and be found at death in him, possessing no legal righteousness of my own but the righteousness of faith in Christ, the divine righteousness that rests on faith.

EVENING

Those whom the Eternal has set free;
come home to Sion singing,
crowned with an unending joy.

No sound of tears, no voice of crying,
shall ever be heard in her;
none in the land shall say then: "I am sick,"
for all who live there have their sins forgiven.

He laid his hand on me, saying, "Be not afraid; I am the First and the Last, I was dead and here am I alive for evermore, holding the keys that unlock death and Hades."

After that I looked, and there was a great host whom no one could count, from every nation and tribe and people and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clad in white robes, with palm-branches in their hands; and they cried with a loud voice, "Saved by our God who is seated on the throne, and by the Lamb!"

He shall wipe every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more—
no more wailing, no more crying, no more pain,
for the former things have passed away.

MORNING

Be ready, hold yourself in reserve for me!

Keep your loins girt and your lamps lit, and be like men who are expecting their lord and master. Blessed are those servants whom the lord and master finds awake when he comes!

Brace up your minds, then. Instead of moulding yourselves to passions that once ruled the days of your ignorance; as He who called you is holy, so you must be holy too in all your conduct.

The servant who knew his lord and master's orders and did not prepare for them,
will receive many lashes;
whereas he who was ignorant and did what deserves a beating,
will receive few lashes.
He who has much given him
will have much required from him,
and he who has much entrusted to him
will have all the more demanded of him.

We must let our steps be guided by such truth as we have attained.

EVENING

Who is to accuse the elect of God? When God acquits, who shall condemn?

There is no doom now for those who are in Christ Jesus; the law of the Spirit brings the life which is in Christ Jesus, and that law has set me free from the law of sin and death.

For God loved the world so dearly that he gave up his only Son. God did not send his Son into the world to pass sentence on it, but to save the world by him.

Thus it is that we may be sure we belong to the truth and reassure ourselves before him whenever our heart may condemn us; for God is greater than our heart, and he knows all. If our heart does not condemn us, beloved, then we have confidence in approaching God, and we get from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight.

To him who loves us and has loosed us from our sins by shedding his blood —he has made us a realm of priests for his God and Father,—to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever: Amen.

MORNING

Let us worship God acceptably—though with godly fear and awe, for our God is indeed a consuming fire.

Produce fruits that answer to your repentance. Any tree that is not producing good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

His winnowing-fan is in his hand,
he will clean out his threshing-floor,
his wheat he will gather into the granary,
but the straw he will burn with fire unquenchable.

The foundation is laid, namely Jesus Christ, and no one can lay any other. On that foundation anyone may build gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, but in every case the nature of his work will come out; the Day will show what it is, for the Day breaks in fire, and the fire will test the work of each, no matter what that work may be.

Everyone has to be consecrated by the fire of the discipline.

EVENING

The pith of life has left me.

My iniquities are overwhelming me,
crushing me like a heavy load.
I confess my guilt,
I sorrow for my sin.
Put not thy servant on his trial,
for before thee no living soul can be acquitted.

Hear my cry, O God,
and heed my prayer;
from earth's far end I call to thee,
as my heart faints.

God eternal is your home,
and underneath you are the everlasting arms!

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, he forgives our sins and cleanses us from all iniquity.

Into the weary he puts power,
and adds new strength to the weak.
Those who wait for the Eternal shall renew their strength,
they put out wings like eagles,
they run and never weary,
they walk and never faint.

MORNING

"Lord, how often is my brother to sin against me and be forgiven? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Seven times? I say, seventy times seven."

Whenever you stand up to pray, if you have anything against anybody, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

There was a moneylender who had two debtors; one owed him fifty pounds, the other five. As they were unable to pay, he freely forgave them both.

I discharged all that debt for you, because you implored me. "Ought you not to have had mercy on your fellow-servant, as I had on you?"

You have heard the saying, "You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who presecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven:
he makes his sun rise on the evil and the good,
and sends rain on the just and the unjust.

Be clothed with compassion, kindliness, humility, gentleness, and good temper—forbear and forgive each other in any case of complaint; as Christ forgave you, so must you forgive.

EVENING

I have not come to call just men but sinners.

He looked up and said to him, "Zacchæus, come down at once, for I must stay at your house to-day." He came down at once and welcomed him gladly. But when they saw this, everyone began to mutter that he had gone to be "the guest of a sinner."

A woman who was a sinner, when she found out that Jesus was at table in the house of the Pharisee, brought an alabaster flask of perfume and stood behind him at his feet in tears. The Pharisee said to himself, "If he was a prophet, he would know what sort of a woman this is who is touching him; for she is a sinner."

Many taxgatherers and sinners had come to be guests with him and his disciples. So when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with taxgatherers and sinners?" When Jesus heard it he said, "Those who are strong have no need of a doctor, but those who are ill."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." Jesus said, "Neither do I."

He to whom little is forgiven has but little love.

MORNING

All spoke well of him, marvelling at the gracious words that came from his lips.

On the road he inquired of his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" "John the Baptist," they told him, "though some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the prophets." So he inquired of them, "And who do you say I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Christ."

Then the attendants went back to the high priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why have you not brought him with you?" The attendants replied, "No man ever spoke as he does."

And Jesus cried aloud, "He who believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me, and he who beholds me beholds him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, that no one who believes in me may remain in the dark. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, it is not I who judge him; for I have not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects me and will not receive my words has indeed a judge: the word I have spoken will judge him on the last day, for I have not spoken of my own accord—the Father who sent me, he it was who ordered me what to say and what to speak."

Take care how you listen;
for he who has, to him shall more be given,
while as for him who has not, from him shall be taken even what he thinks he has.

EVENING

If in this life we have nothing but a mere hope in Christ, we are of all men to be pitied most!

Thou to whom a thousand years
are like the flight of yesterday,
Year after year thou sowest men
like grass that grows anew,
then by twilight fades and withers.
Our life is over like a sigh.
Our life is seventy years at most,
or eighty at the best,
a span of toil and trouble,
soon over, and we flit away.

We have no lasting city here below, we seek the City to come. We are a colony of heaven, and we wait for the Saviour who will transform the body that belongs to our low estate till it resembles the body of his Glory, by the same power that enables him to make everything subject to himself.

Well then, my beloved brothers, hold your ground, immovable; abound in work for the Lord at all times, for you may be sure that in the Lord your labour is never thrown away.

MORNING

Be merciful,
as your Father is merciful.

The goodness and affection of God our Saviour appeared; and he saved us, not for any good deeds we had done but from his own pity for us.

Copy God, then, as his beloved children, and lead lives of love, just as Christ loved you and gave himself up for you.

If you love only those who love you, what credit is that to you?
Why, even sinful men love those who love them.
If you help only those who help you, what merit is that to you?
Why, even sinful men do that.
If you only lend to those from whom you hope to get something, what credit is that to you?
Even sinful men lend to one another, so as to get a fair return.
No, you must love your enemies and help them,
you must lend to them without expecting any return;
then you will have a rich reward,
you will be sons of the Most High—
for he is kind even to the ungrateful and the evil.

EVENING

Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see.

In after days it shall be
that the Eternal's hill shall rise,
towering over every hill.
He will decide disputes of many races,
and arbitrate between strong foreign powers,
till swords are beaten into ploughshares,
spears into pruning-hooks;
no longer shall men learn to fight.

The Realm of heaven is like a grain of mustard-seed, which a man takes and sows in his field. It becomes a tree, so large that wild birds come and roost in the branches of it.

None shall injure, none shall kill, for the land shall be as full of the knowledge of the Eternal as the ocean-bed is full of water. And the Scion of Jesse who is to rally the peoples,
him shall the nations then consult.

MORNING

Take care how you listen.

He sent for Paul and heard what he had to say about faith in Christ Jesus; but when he argued about morality, self-mastery, and the future judgment, Felix grew uneasy. "You may go for the present," he said; "when I can find a moment, I will send for you."

When anyone hears the word of the Realm and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart; that is the man who is sown "on the road." As for him who is sown "on stony soil," that is the man who hears the word and accepts it at once with enthusiasm; he has no root in himself, he does not last, but, when the word brings trouble or persecution, he is at once repelled. As for him who is sown "among thorns," that is the man who listens to the word, but the worry of the world and the delight of being rich choke the word; so it proves unfruitful. As for him who is sown "on good soil," that is the man who hears the word and understands it; he bears fruit, producing now a hundredfold, now sixty, and now thirtyfold.

Make a soil of humble modesty for the Word which roots itself inwardly with power to save your souls.

EVENING

Born in human guise and appearing in human form, he humbly stooped in his obedience even to die.

"Father, if it please thee, take this cup away from me. But thy will, not mine, be done."

I lay down my life to take it up again. No one takes it from me, I lay it down of my own accord: I have power to lay it down and also power to take it up again. Then they spat in his face and buffeted him, some of them cuffing him and crying, "Prophesy to us, you Christ! tell us who struck you!"

Those who passed by scoffed at him, nodding at him in derision and crying, "You were to destroy the temple and build it in three days! Save yourself, if you are God's Son! Come down from the cross!" So, too, the high priests made fun of him, with the scribes and the elders of the people. "He saved others," they said, "but he cannot save himself!"

Then with a loud cry Jesus said, "Father, I trust my spirit to thy hands," and with these words he expired.

Ours was the pain he bore,
the sorrow he endured

MORNING

Here is the time of favour, here is the day of salvation.

The time has now come, God's reign is near: repent and believe the gospel.

One of his fellow-guests said to him, "Blessed is he who feasts in the Realm of God!" Jesus said to him, "There was a man who was giving a large supper, to which he had invited a number of guests. At the hour for supper, he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, everything is ready.' But they all alike proceeded to decline. Then the master of the house was enraged, and said to his servant, 'Quick, go out to the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the maimed, the blind and the lame. For I tell you, not one of those who were invited shall taste my supper.' "

Let us be eager then to enter, lest anyone fall into the same sort of disobedience. For the Logos of God is a living thing, active and more cutting than any sword with double edge, penetrating to the very division of soul and spirit, joints and marrow—scrutinizing the very thoughts and conceptions of the heart. And no created thing is hidden from him; all things lie open and exposed before the eyes of him with whom we have to reckon.

EVENING

God has been unfolded by the divine One, the only Son.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man.

He saw the heavens cleft and the Spirit coming down upon him like a dove! then said a voice from heaven,
"Thou art my Son, the Beloved,
in thee is my delight."

He stood up to read,
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me:
for he has consecrated me to preach the gospel to the poor,
he has sent me to proclaim release for captives
and recovery of sight for the blind.

He orders the unclean spirits with authority and power, and they come out!

The crowds were astounded at his teaching; for he taught them like an authority, not like their own scribes.

Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work."

MORNING

Watch and pray, all of you, so that you may not slip into temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.

Take heed to yourselves lest your hearts are overpowered by dissipation and drunkenness and worldly anxieties. From hour to hour keep awake, praying that you may succeed in escaping all these dangers to come and in standing before the Son of man.

Let no one who is tried by temptation say, "My temptation comes from God"; God tempts no one. Everyone is tempted as he is beguiled and allured by his own desire; then Desire conceives and breeds Sin, while Sin matures and gives birth to Death. All we are given is good, and all our endowments are faultless, descending from above, from the Father of the heavenly lights. It was his own will that we should be born by the Word of the truth to be a kind of firstfruits among his creatures.

Watch, stand firm in the faith, play the man, be strong! Let all you do be done in love.

Blessed is he who endures under trial; for when he has stood the test, he will gain the crown of life which is promised to all who love Him.

EVENING

Do not I fill heaven and earth?—the Eternal asks.

I climb to heaven?—but thou art there;
  I nestle in the nether-world?—and there thou art!
If I darted swift to the dawn,
  to the verge of ocean afar,
thy hand even there would fall on me.
If I say, "The dark will screen me,
  night will hide me in its curtains,"
yet darkness is not dark to thee,
  the night is clear as daylight.

  He who sits enthroned for evermore, declares:
  "I am with the crushed and humbled soul,
  to revive the spirit of the humble,
    and to put heart into the crushed."

I will ask the Father to give you another Helper to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth: the world cannot receive him, because it neither sees nor knows him, but you know him, because he remains with you and will be within you. I will not leave you forlorn.

For where two or three have gathered in my name, I am there among them.

MORNING

Let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates either flesh or spirit; let us be fully consecrated by reverence for God.

You will thus be richly furnished with the right of entry into the eternal realm of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

If you are under the sway of the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are quite obvious, such as impurity, sensuality, idolatry, quarrels, dissension, jealousy, temper, rivalry, factions, party-spirit, envy, revelry, and the like. But the harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, good temper, kindliness, generosity, fidelity, gentleness, self-control.

Brothers, you were called to be free; only, do not make your freedom an opening for the flesh, but serve one another in love. For the entire Law is summed up in one word, in You must love your neighbour as yourself. Lead the life of the Spirit; then you will never satisfy the passions of the flesh. You are not free to do as you please.

Do you, beloved, build up yourselves on your most holy faith and pray in the holy Spirit, so keeping yourselves within the love of God and waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that ends in life eternal.

EVENING

Lo, God's dwelling-place is with men,
with men will he dwell.

I will put my law within them,
  writing it on their hearts;
and I will be a God to them,
  and they to me a people;
no longer shall they have to teach
  their fellows, each instructing each,
how to know the Eternal; for they all
  shall know me, both the great and small.

The Reign of God is now in your midst.

You are God's temple and God's Spirit dwells within you. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells within you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies live by his indwelling Spirit in your lives.

You belong to God's own household, you are a building that rests on the apostles and prophets as its foundation, with Christ Jesus as the corner-stone; in him the whole structure is welded together and rises into a sacred temple in the Lord, and in him you are yourselves built into this to form a habitation for God in the Spirit.

MORNING

He said, "Go to your own people, and report to them all the Lord has done for you."

Peter and John replied, "Decide for yourselves whether it is right before God to obey you rather than God; certainly we cannot give up speaking of what we have seen and heard."

Then he called the whole company to him with his disciples, telling them, "If anyone wishes to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and so follow me."

"Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this disloyal and sinful generation, the Son of man will be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

Then I said, "Alas! man of unclean lips that I am!" But one of the seraphs flew towards me with a live coal from the altar; he touched my mouth with it, saying,

"Now that this has touched your lips,
your guilt is gone, your sin forgiven."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,

"Whom shall I send?
Who will go for us?"

I answered, "Here am I; send me."

EVENING

It is to a life of peace that God has called you.

From the heights of heaven
a spirit shall breathe into us;
my people shall have homes of peace,
resting in houses undisturbed.

The interests of the flesh mean death,
the interests of the Spirit mean life and peace.

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, good temper, kindliness, generosity, fidelity, gentleness, self-control.

The holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you. Peace I leave to you, my peace I give to you; I give it not as the world gives its "Peace!" Let not your hearts be disquieted or timid.

May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in your faith, that you may be overflowing with hope, by the power of the holy Spirit!

MORNING

For love of money is the root of all mischief.

Like a partridge hatching eggs it never laid,
so is the man who makes money unfairly;
it leaves him ere his life is over,
and in the end he proves himself a fool.

Those who are eager to be rich get tempted and trapped in many senseless and pernicious propensities, that drag men down to ruin and destruction.

A man out of the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of our inheritance"; but he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over your affairs?" Then he said to them, "See and keep clear of covetousness in every shape and form, for a man's life is not part of his possessions because he has ample wealth."

It is by aspiring to be rich that certain individuals have gone astray from the faith and found themselves pierced with many a pang of remorse. Shun that, O man of God, aim at integrity, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, modesty.

Happy he who relies on the Eternal,
he is like a tree planted beside a stream,
it goes on bearing fruit in days of drought,
and lives serene.

EVENING

Christ's presence among you
your hope of glory.

Thank the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the hope which is laid up for you in heaven. You heard of this hope originally in the message of the Truth, in that gospel which has reached you as it spreads over all the world with fruit and increase.

Those who are asleep in death; you must not grieve for them, like the rest of men who have no hope. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then it follows that by means of Jesus God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, grant you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation for the knowledge of himself, illuminating the eyes of your heart so that you can understand the hope to which He calls us, the wealth of his glorious heritage in the saints.

Adhere to the foundations and stability of the hope you have learned in the gospel.

Obey all the commands I have laid on you. . . . And all the time I will be with you, to the very end of the world.

MORNING

Hold your ground, immovable.

I am astonished that you are hastily shifting like this, deserting Him who called you by Christ's grace.

Who has bewitched you—you who had Jesus Christ the crucified placarded before your very eyes?

Make no mistake—God is not to be mocked—a man will reap just what he sows; he who sows for his flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, and he who sows for the Spirit will reap life eternal from the Spirit.

Hold you to what you have been taught, hold to your convictions, remember who your teachers were, remember how you have known from childhood the sacred writings that can impart saving wisdom by faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for amendment, and for moral discipline, to make the man of God proficient and equip him for good work of every kind.

Blessed is he who endures under trial; for when he has stood the test, he will gain the crown of life which is promised to all who love Him.

EVENING

All men are grass,
and all their glory like a flower in the field.

Poor man!—his days are like the grass,
he blooms like a flower in the meadow;
at the breath of a breeze it is gone,
and its place never sees it again.

Man labours at his toil under the sun;
what does he gain?
The generations come and go.

But the Eternal's love is everlasting,
his loyalty goes on to children's children.

Grass withers and flowers fade,
but our God's promise stands for evermore.

My soul clings close to thee,
thy right hand holds me fast.

The Lord Jesus Christ . . . will transform the body of our low estate till it resembles the body of his Glory by the same power that enables him to make everything subject to himself.

MORNING

Do not vex God's holy Spirit, by whom you have been sealed for the day of redemption.

It was no envoy and no angel,
  'twas his own Presence saved them;
he rescued them himself
  in love and pity,
he lifted them and carried them
  all through the days of old.
But they, they thwarted him,
  they pained his sacred Spirit;

If we sin deliberately, after receiving the knowledge of the Truth, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins left, nothing but an awful outlook of doom.

Lead the life of the Spirit; then you will never satisfy the passions of the flesh. For the passion of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the passion of the Spirit against the flesh—the two are at issue, so that you are not free to do as you please.

For the sons of God are those who are guided by the Spirit of God. You have received the Spirit of sonship. And when we cry, "Abba! Father!", it is this Spirit testifying along with our own spirit that we are children of God; and if children, heirs as well, heirs of God, heirs along with Christ—for we share his sufferings in order to share his glory.

EVENING

He has appeared with his self-sacrifice to abolish sin.

He was wounded because we had sinned,
  'twas our misdeeds that crushed him;
'twas for our welfare that he was chastised,
  the blows that fell to him have brought us healing.

"O foolish men, with hearts so slow to believe, after all the prophets have declared! Had not the Christ to suffer thus and so enter his glory?"

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. "Thus," he said, "it is written that the Christ has to suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and the remission of sins must be preached in his name to all nations."

Remission of sins is proclaimed to you through him, and by him everyone who believes is absolved.

He appeared to take our sins away. In him there is no sin; anyone who remains in him does not sin.

MORNING

A man said to him, "Is it only a few, sir, who are saved?" So he said to them, "Strive to get in through the narrow door."

Join the ranks of those who bear suffering, like a loyal soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civil pursuits; his aim is to satisfy his commander. Again, a competitor in the games is not crowned unless he observes the rules. The farmer who has done the work must have the first share of the fruit. Think what I mean! The Lord will help you to understand it perfectly.

Every athlete practises self-restraint all round; but while they do it to win a fading wreath, we do it for an unfading. Well, I run without swerving; I do not plant my blows upon the empty air—no, I maul and master my body, lest, after preaching to other people, I am disqualified myself.

Work strenuously at your salvation with reverence and trembling, for it is God who in his goodwill enables you to will this and to achieve it. In all that you do, avoid grumbling and disputing, so as to be blameless and innocent, faultless children of God in a crooked and perverse generation where you shine like stars in a dark world.

EVENING

Seek out thy servant in his wanderings.

All have swerved, one and all have gone wrong,
  no one does good, not a single one.
Like sheep we had all gone astray,
  we had each taken his own way,
and on him the Eternal laid
  the guilt of all of us.

He told them this parable, "Which of you with a hundred sheep, if he loses one, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one till he finds it? Or again, suppose a woman has ten shillings. If she loses one, does she not light a lamp and scour the house, searching carefully till she finds it? And when she finds it, she gathers her women-friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the shilling I lost.' So, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over a single sinner who repents."

He bore our sins in his own body on the gibbet, that we might break with sin and live the good life; it is by his wounds that you have been healed. You were indeed astray like sheep, but you have come back now to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

MORNING

Let us have no vanity, no provoking, no envy of one another.

A dispute arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. Jesus took hold of a little child and set it by his side; then he said to them,

"Whoever receives this little child in my name receives me,
and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.
For it is the lowliest of you all who is great."

You know that the so-called rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them,
and their great men overbear them:
not so with you.
Whoever wants to be the great man among you must be your servant,
for the Son of man himself has not come to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.

So by all the stimulus of Christ, by every incentive of love, by all your participation in the Spirit, by all your affectionate tenderness, I pray you to give me the utter joy of knowing you are living in harmony, with the same feelings of love, with one heart and soul, never acting for private ends or from vanity, but humbly considering each other the better man, and each with an eye to the interests of others as well as to his own.

EVENING

The Eternal is good to all who look to him,
and his compassion covers all that he has made.

Look at the wild birds;
they sow not, they reap not, they gather nothing in granaries,
and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
Look how the lilies of the field grow;
they neither toil nor spin,
and yet, I tell you, even Solomon in all his grandeur was never robed like one of them.

All thy creatures look to thee,
for their food in season due,
and from thine open hand
they feast upon thy favour.

Now if God so clothes the grass of the field which blooms to-day and is thrown to-morrow into the furnace, will not he much more clothe you? O men, how little you trust him! Do not be troubled. Seek God's Realm and his goodness, and all will be yours over and above.

MORNING

This is how we may be sure we are in him: he who says he "remains in him" ought to be living as he lived.

Do not befoul yourselves with idols: I am the Eternal your God, live by my rules, observe and obey my regulations.

A jurist got up to tempt him. "Teacher," he said, "what am I to do to inherit life eternal?" He replied, "You must love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, with your whole strength, and with your whole mind. Also your neighbour as yourself. Do that and you will live."

Obedience to God's commands is everything.

If you remember, even when offering your gift at the altar, that your brother has any grievance against you, leave your gift at the very altar and go away; first be reconciled to your brother.

If anyone declares, "I love God," and yet hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who will not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot possibly love the God whom he has never seen.

May the God of peace who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, furnish you with everything that is good for the doing of his will.

EVENING

Within Christ Jesus, you who once were far away have been brought near.

Eternal Life which existed with the Father was disclosed to us, and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

God proves his love for us by this, that Christ died for us when we were still sinners. If we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son when we were enemies, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

For it was in him that the divine Fulness willed to settle without limit, and by him to reconcile in his own person all on earth by the blood of his cross. Once you were estranged yourselves, your hearts hostile to him in evil doing; but now he has reconciled you by dying in his mortal body, so as to set you consecrated and unblemished and irreproachable in his presence.

Since we thus have confidence to enter the holy Presence in virtue of the blood of Jesus, let us draw near with a true heart, in absolute assurance of faith.

MORNING

Jesus said to him, " 'If you can!' Anything can be done for one who believes."

And what more shall I say? Time would fail me to tell of men who by faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, from weakness won to strength.

His faith won strength as he gave glory to God and felt convinced that He was able to do what He had promised.

Placing him on the pinnacle of the temple the devil said to him, "If you are God's son, throw yourself down; for it is written,
He will give his angels charge of you, to protect you."
Jesus answered him, "It has been said, You shall not tempt the Lord your God."

Let this be how you pray:

"our Father in heaven,
thy name be revered,
thy Reign begin,
thy will be done
on earth as in heaven!"

Truly, truly I tell you, he who believes in me will do the very deeds I do, and still greater deeds than these. I will do whatever you ask in my name, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

EVENING

For who is God save the Eternal?
Who is steadfast but our God?—

The Eternal is my crag, my stronghold, my deliverer,
my God, my fortalice where I take shelter.
For waves of death broke round me,
floods of destruction burst on me;
I called to the Eternal in my plight,
he heard my voice,
my cry came to his ears.

I besought the Eternal and he answered me;
look to him, and you shall beam with joy.
The angels of the Eternal camp around his worshippers,
and rescue them.

Happy the man who takes shelter with him!
God eternal is your home,
and underneath you are the everlasting arms!

MORNING

Enter by the narrow gate:
for the gate is broad and the road is wide that leads to destruction,
and many enter that way.
But the road that leads to life is both narrow and close.

For this reason, do you contrive to make it your whole concern to furnish your faith with resolution, resolution with intelligence, intelligence with self-control, self-control with steadfastness, steadfastness with godliness, godliness with brotherliness, and brotherliness with Christian love.

For these qualities render you active and fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; whereas he who has not these by him is blind, short-sighted. As you exercise these qualities you will be richly furnished with the right of entry into the eternal realm of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

A stainless highroad shall appear,
its name "The Sacred Way";
no soul unclean shall tread it,
no impious foot stray over it;
but on it the redeemed shall walk,
those whom the Eternal has set free.

Since we thus have confidence to enter the holy Presence in virtue of the blood of Jesus, by the fresh, living way which he has inaugurated for us, let us draw near with a true heart, in absolute assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled clean from a bad conscience.

EVENING

There is no salvation by anyone else.

But now, the Eternal promises,
he who created you,
he who made you,
"Fear not, for I redeem you,
I claim you, you are mine."

For our sakes He made him to be sin who himself knew nothing of sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

He chose us in him, to be consecrated and unblemished in his sight, destining us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ. Such was the purpose of his will, redounding to the praise of his glorious grace bestowed on us in the Beloved, in whom we enjoy our redemption. It was his design so to order it in the fulness of the ages that all things in heaven and earth alike should be gathered up in Christ.

Whoever confesses that "Jesus is the Son of God" in him God remains, and he remains in God.

MORNING

Thou dost lay our guilty secrets bare before thee.

"By the life of the Eternal!" he said to Nathan, "the man who did that deserves to die; he must give back seven lambs, because he spared what belonged to himself!"

Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"

You are like tombs whitewashed;
they look comely on the outside,
  but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all manner of impurity.
So to men you seem just,
  but inside you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

I the Eternal search the mind,
  I test the heart,
rewarding every man as he has lived,
  and as his deeds deserve.
Then heal me, O Eternal, and I shall be healed,
  save me, and I shall be saved.

If we say, "We are not guilty," we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us; if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, he forgives our sins and cleanses us from all iniquity.

EVENING

Great is his authority,
endless is his peace.

He will decide the disputes of the nations,
and settle many a people's case,
till swords are beaten into ploughshares,
spears into pruning-hooks;
no nation draws the sword against another,
no longer shall men learn to fight.

We were saved with this hope ahead. Now when an object of hope is seen, there is no further need to hope. Whoever hopes for what he sees already? But if we hope for something that we do not see, we wait for it patiently.

Thanks to the tender mercy of our God,
  who will cause the Dawn to visit us from on high,
to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
  to guide our steps into the way of peace.

MORNING

Beloved, if God had such love for us, we ought to love one another.

Let us love one another, for love belongs to God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God; he who does not love, does not know God, for God is love.

As God's own chosen, then, as consecrated and beloved, be clothed with compassion, kindliness, humility, gentleness, and good temper—forbear and forgive each other in any case of complaint; as Christ forgave you, so must you forgive. And above all you must be loving, for love is the link of the perfect life.

When reviled, bless; when persecuted, put up with it; when defamed, try to conciliate.

If anyone declares, "I love God," and yet hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who will not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot possibly love the God whom he has never seen. And we get this command from him, that he who loves God is to love his brother also.

EVENING

Eternal One, my God, thou art most great,
arrayed in glorious majesty.

Have you ever entered the stores of the snow?
  Have you seen the arsenals of hail—
raining to gladden lonely wastes,
  and clothe the dry land with green sward?

Winter is over
  the rains are by,
the country's a-flower,
  the figs are ripening red,
the vines are all blossom and fragrance.

Rain and snow from heaven fall not in vain,
but water earth until it yields
  seed for the sower, food for hungry men.

The world is full of thy creatures, all looking to thee
  for their food in season due;
what thou givest, that they gather,
feasting from thine open hand.

Seek God's realm and his goodness, and all . . . will be yours.

MORNING

Be wakeful and sober.

All of us will have to stand before the tribunal of God. Each of us then will have to answer for himself to God.

But if the bad servant says to himself, "My lord and master is long of coming," and if he starts to beat his fellow-servants and to eat and drink with drunkards, that servant's lord and master will arrive on a day when he does not expect him; sharply will he punish him.

So clear away all the foul rank growth of malice, and make a soil of humble modesty for the Word which roots itself inwardly with power to save your souls.

Sleepers sleep by night and drunkards are drunk by night, but we must be sober, we who belong to the day, clad in faith and love as our coat of mail, with the hope of salvation as our helmet—for God destined us not for Wrath but to gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us that waking in life or sleeping in death we should live together with him.

EVENING

I put my life into thy hands; and, O Eternal, O thou faithful God, thou savest me.

I have swept aside your ill deeds like a mist,
and your sins like a cloud,
I have redeemed you.

You were ransomed from the futile traditions of your past, by the precious blood of Christ, a lamb unblemished and unstained. It is by him that you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory; and thus your faith means hope in God.

Fear not, you never shall be put to shame;
be not confused, you shall not be confounded;
your early shame you shall forget.
Your redeemer is His Majesty of Israel,
the God of all the earth.

The Lord Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil world.

To redeem us from all iniquity and secure himself a clean people, with a zest for good deeds.

MORNING

In Him who strengthens me, I am able for anything.

As great promises are ours, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates either flesh or spirit; let us be fully consecrated by reverence for God.

Do you not know that in a race, though all run, only one man gains the prize? Run so as to win the prize.

Brace up your minds, keep cool. Be obedient children, instead of moulding yourselves to passions that once ruled the days of your ignorance; as He who called you is holy, so you must be holy too in all your conduct. And as you call upon a Father who judges everyone impartially, be reverent in your conduct while you sojourn here below.

We must strip off every handicap, strip off sin with its clinging folds, to run our appointed course with steadiness, our eyes fixed upon Jesus as the pioneer and the perfection of faith. Jesus, in order to reach his own appointed joy, steadily endured the cross, thinking nothing of its shame.

He will be saved who holds out to the very end.

EVENING

By faith we understand that the world was fashioned by the word of God, and thus the visible was made out of the invisible.

The heavens were made at the Eternal's order,
  and all their host by his mere word;
he holds the seas as in a waterskin,
  and stores up the abysses of the deep.
For he it was who spoke—and earth existed,
  'twas at his bidding it appeared.

The heavens proclaim God's splendour,
  the sky speaks of his handiwork;
day after day takes up the tale,
  night after night makes him known.

As I look up to the heavens thy fingers made,
  the moon and stars that thou hast shaped,
I ask, "And what is man, that thou shouldst think of him?
  What is a mortal man, that thou shouldst heed him?"

The Eternal looks from heaven,
  beholding all mankind;
from where he sits, he scans
  all who inhabits the world;
he who alone made their minds,
  he notes all they do.

MORNING

So your light is to shine before men, that they may see the good you do and glorify your Father in heaven.

What is the use of anyone declaring that he has faith, if he has no deeds to show? Can that faith of his save him? Suppose some brother or sister is ill-clad and short of daily food; if any of you tells them, "Depart in peace! Get warm, get food," without supplying their bodily needs, what use is that? Faith, unless it has deeds, is dead in itself.

This is my command: you are to love one another as I have loved you.

A disciple called Tabitha (which may be translated Dorcas, or "Gazelle"), a woman whose life was full of good actions and of charitable practices.

I may distribute all I possess in charity,
I may give up my body to be burnt,
but if I have no love,
I make nothing of it.

God has made us what we are, creating us in Christ Jesus for the good deeds which are our sphere of action.

EVENING

Is anyone of you in trouble? let him pray.

For he has not despised the poor man's plight,
he has not hidden his face from me,
he answered my appeal for help.

It was no envoy and no angel,
'twas his own Presence saved them;
he rescued them himself
in love and pity,
he lifted them and carried them
all through the days of old.

Thou dost protect and prosper steadfast souls,
for they rely on thee.

Peace I leave to you, my peace I give to you; I give it not as the world gives its "Peace!" Let not your hearts be disquieted or timid.

I await thy promise, thou my shield and shelter.
Uphold me, as thou hast promised, disappoint not my hope, but let me live; hold me up safe, let me delight for ever in thy will.

MORNING

You must be sacred for me for I the Eternal am sacred and I have separated you from other races, to make you mine.

So put to death anger, rage, malice, slander, foul talk! Tell no lies to one another; you have stripped off the old nature with its practices.

If you love only those who love you, what reward do you get for that?
and if you only salute your friends, what is special about that?
do not the very pagans do as much?

Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. For whoever listens and does nothing, is like a man who glances at his natural face in a mirror; he glances at himself, goes off, and at once forgets what he was like. He who gazes into the faultless law of freedom and remains in that position, proving himself to be no forgetful listener but an active agent, he will be blessed in his activity.

You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Search me, O God, and know my heart,
test me and try my thoughts;
see if I am taking a wrong course,
and do thou lead me on the lines of life eternal.

EVENING

May the Eternal bless you and protect you!
May the Eternal smile on you and favour you!
May the Eternal befriend you and prosper you!

I will exult rejoicing in thy love,
who hast looked upon my misery.

My fate lies in thy hands;
smile on thy servant,
in thy love succour me.

O thou Eternal, my God, I called for help to thee,
and thou hast caused me to recover.

Happy the people who know thy festal songs,
who live within the sunshine of thy favour!
All day long they exult, O thou Eternal,
and they extol thine equity.
For thou art our pride, thou our strength,
and, thanks to thy favour, our honour is high;
we are defended by the Eternal,
by our King, the Majestic One of Israel.

MORNING

Mind what is above, not what is on earth.

The slight trouble of the passing hour results in a solid glory past all comparison, for those of us whose eyes are on the unseen, not on the seen; for the seen is transient, the unseen eternal.

Those who are eager to be rich get tempted and trapped in many senseless and pernicious propensities, that drag men down to ruin and destruction. For love of money is the root of all mischief; it is by aspiring to be rich that certain individuals have gone astray from the faith and found themselves pierced with many a pang of remorse. Shun that, O man of God, aim at integrity, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, modesty; fight in the good fight of the faith, secure that life eternal to which you were called.

If wealth increases,
set not your heart upon it.

Store up no treasures for yourselves on earth,
where moth and rust corrode,
where thieves break in and steal:
store up treasures for yourselves in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust corrode,
where thieves do not break in and steal.
For where your treasure lies,
your heart will lie there too.

Use mammon, dishonest as it is, to make friends for yourselves, so that when you die they may welcome you to the eternal abodes.

EVENING

He is able to save those who approach God through him, since he is always living to intercede on their behalf.

Think you, my hand is too weak to deliver,
that I have no power to release you?

For God loved the world so dearly that he gave up his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

He is able to keep you from slipping and to make you stand unblemished and exultant before his glory.

What can ever part us from Christ's love? Can anguish or calamity or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or the sword?

No, in all this we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, no powers of the Height or of the Depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to part us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

MORNING

The world is passing away with its desire, while he who does the will of God remains for ever.

Let us live decorously as in the open light of day—no revelry or bouts of drinking, no debauchery or sensuality, no quarrelling or jealousy. No, put on the character of the Lord Jesus Christ, and never think how to gratify the cravings of the flesh.

Man born of woman
  lives but a few days and is full of trouble;
he flowers and fades,
  he is a fleeting shadow.
Come but a few years more,
  and I go, never to return;
my strength and time are spent.

It is appointed for men to die once and after that to be judged.

Hence I am eager to satisfy him, for we have all to appear without disguise before the tribunal of Christ, each to be requited for what he has done, well or ill.

So they shall depart.
  The just to eternal life.

EVENING

Praying at all times in the Spirit.

Be alive to that, attend to it unceasingly, interceding on behalf of all the saints.

Though he will not get up and give you anything because you are a friend of his, he will at least rise and give you whatever you want, because you persist. So I tell you,
ask and the gift will be yours,
  seek and you will find,
    knock and the door will open to you.

"He said to himself, 'Though I have no reverence for God and no respect even for man, still, as this widow is bothering me, I will see justice done to her —not to have her for ever coming and pestering me.' Listen," said the Lord, "to what this unjust judge says! And will not God see justice done to his elect who cry to him by day and night?"

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed; the prayers of the righteous have a powerful effect.

Attend to your prayers, maintain your zest for prayer by thanksgiving.

MORNING

Never let us grow tired of doing what is right.

He who sows for his flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, and he who sows for the Spirit will reap life eternal from the Spirit.

Leave it to the Eternal and be patient;
fret not over the successful man.
Never say, "I will revenge my wrongs";
wait for the Eternal to help you.

Let your love be a real thing, with a loathing for evil and a bent for what is good. Put affection into your love for the brotherhood; be forward to honour one another; never let your zeal flag; maintain the spiritual glow; serve the Lord; let your hope be a joy to you; be steadfast in trouble, attend to prayer, contribute to needy saints, make a practice of hospitality. Bless those who make a practice of persecuting you; bless them instead of cursing them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Never let evil get the better of you; get the better of evil by doing good.

EVENING

He learned by all he suffered how to obey.

Jesus burst into tears. Whereupon the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

In the morning, as he came back to the city, he felt hungry.

Exhausted by the journey [he] sat down at the spring, and a Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

Jesus said, "Somebody did touch me, for I felt power had passed from me."

He said to them, "My heart is sad, sad even to death; stay here and watch with me."

He fell into an agony and prayed with greater intensity, his sweat dropping to the ground like clots of blood.

Then he went forward a little and fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass me. Yet, not what I will but what thou wilt."

In bringing many sons to glory, it was befitting that He for whom and by whom the universe exists, should perfect the Pioneer of their salvation by suffering.

MORNING

Lord, teach us to pray.

When you pray,
go into your room and shut the door,
and your Father who sees what is secret will reward you.
Do not pray by idle rote like pagans,
for they suppose they will be heard the more they say;
your Father knows your needs before you ask him.

Two men went up to pray in the temple; one was a Pharisee and the other was a taxgatherer. The Pharisee stood up and said his prayer as follows; "I thank thee, O God, I am not like the rest of men, thieves, rogues, and immoral, or even like yon taxgatherer." But the taxgatherer stood far away and would not lift even his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "O God, have mercy on me for my sins!" I tell you, he went home accepted by God rather than the other man.

Have faith in God! I tell you truly, whoever says to this hill, "Take and throw yourself into the sea," and has not a doubt in his mind but believes that what he says will happen, he will have it done. So I tell you, whatever you pray for and ask, believe you have got it, and you shall have it.

EVENING

Be free from all anxieties.

Those who turn to the Eternal lack no good.

Never trouble about what you are to eat or drink in life,
nor about what you are to put on your body.
Look at the wild birds;
they sow not, they reap not, they gather nothing in granaries,
and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not worth more than birds?

If God so clothe the grass of the field which blooms to-day and is thrown to-morrow into the furnace, will not he much more clothe you?

Never be anxious, but always make your requests known to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; so shall God's peace, that surpasses all our dreams, keep guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

So never be troubled about to-morrow;
to-morrow will take care of itself.
Seek God's Realm and his goodness, and all will be yours.

MORNING

Consecrated by the Holy Spirit.

I appeal to you, by all the mercy of God, to dedicate your bodies as a living sacrifice, consecrated and acceptable to God; have your mind renewed, and so be transformed in nature.

The Reign of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, it means righteousness, peace, and joy in the holy Spirit; he who serves Christ on these lines, is acceptable to God.

Be strong in the grace of Christ Jesus.

Join the ranks of those who bear suffering, like a loyal soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civil pursuits; his aim is to satisfy his commander.

Where is the credit in standing punishment for having done wrong? No, if you stand suffering for having done right, that is what God counts a merit.

And this is your vocation; for when Christ suffered for you, he left you an example, and you must be following his footsteps.

He suffered and he never threatened.

In this way let us worship God acceptably—though with godly fear and awe, for our God is indeed a consuming fire.

EVENING

So God formed man in his own likeness.

Thou hast crowned him with majesty and honour,
giving him sway o'er all thy hands have made,

Not that I am already perfect.

God sent forth his Son that we might have our sonship. It is because you are sons that God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying "Abba! Father!"

Love your enemies that you may be sons of your Father in heaven:
he makes his sun rise on the evil and the good.

Think what a love the Father has for us, in letting us be called "children of God!" And such we are.

God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

We are children of God now, beloved; what we are to be is not apparent yet, but we do know that when he appears we are to be like him—for we are to see him as he is.

MORNING

Have we not all one Father.

Where do conflicts, where do wrangles come from, in your society? Is it not from these passions of yours that war among your members? You crave, and miss what you want: you envy and covet, but you cannot acquire: you wrangle and fight—you miss what you want because you do not ask God for it; you do ask and you do not get it, because you ask with the wicked intention of spending it on your pleasures.

You have heard the saying, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I tell you, you are not to resist an injury:
whoever strikes you on the right cheek,
turn the other to him as well;
whoever wants to sue you for your shirt,
let him have your coat as well;
whoever forces you to go one mile,
go two miles with him;
give to the man who begs from you,
and turn not away from him who wants to borrow.

Who among you is wise and learned? Let him show by his good conduct, with the humble modesty of wisdom, what his deeds are. If you are cherishing bitter jealousy and rivalry in your hearts, it is an earthly wisdom, unspiritual, devilish; for wherever jealousy and rivalry exist, there disorder reigns and every evil. The wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, forbearing, conciliatory, full of mercy.

EVENING

Thy promise puts life into me.

One in the likeness of a man again touched me and strengthened me saying, "O man greatly loved by God, fear not; all good be yours; be strong, be brave." At his words I gained strength and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words never!

You know in your own minds and souls, all of you, that not one good promise made by the Eternal about you has ever failed; all have been fulfilled, and not one has failed.

Nerve me, as thou hast promised;
keep me from being false to thee, and graciously direct me.

How sweet thy sayings are, sweeter than honey to the taste!
Accept the vows I breathe to thee, and teach me thy decrees.

MORNING

For we have all to appear without disguise before the tribunal of Christ.

It is not what enters a man's mouth that defiles him; what defiles a man is what comes out of his mouth.

For out of the heart come evil designs, murder, adultery, sexual vice, stealing, false witness, and slander.

You have heard how the men of old were told, "Murder not."

But I tell you, whoever is angry with his brother without cause will be sentenced by God.

You have heard how it used to be said, Do not commit adultery. But I tell you, any one who even looks with lust at a woman has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

I tell you, unless your goodness excels that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the Realm of heaven.

Once again, you have heard how the men of old were told, "You must not forswear yourself, but discharge your vows to the Lord." But I tell you, you must not swear any oath.

You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

In Him who strengthens me, I am able for anything.

EVENING

You are to call him "Jesus," for he will save his people.

He guides me by true paths,
as he himself is true.
My road may run through a glen of gloom,
but I fear no harm, for thou art beside me.

Jesus spoke to them at once; "Courage," he said, "it is I, have no fear." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is really you, order me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." But when he saw the strength of the wind he was afraid, and began to sink. "Lord," he shouted, "save me." Jesus at once stretched his hand out and caught him, saying "How little you trust me! Why did you doubt?"

The grace of our Lord flooded my life, along with the faith and love that Christ Jesus inspires. It is a sure word, it deserves all praise, that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"; and though I am the foremost of sinners, I obtained mercy.

MORNING

Always be ready with a reply for anyone who calls you to account for the hope you cherish.

While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his soul was irritated at the sight of the idols that filled the city. He argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout proselytes and also in the market place daily with those who chanced to be present.

When [Paul] argued about morality, self-mastery, and the future judgment, Felix grew uneasy. "You may go for the present," he said; "when I can find a moment, I will send for you."

Christ Jesus testified to the good confession before Pontius Pilate.

I adjure you to preach the word; keep at it in season and out of season, refuting, checking, and exhorting men; never lose patience with them, and never give up your teaching.

Shut your mind against foolish, popular controversy; be sure that only breeds strife. And the Lord's servant must not be a man of strife; he must be kind to everybody, a skilled teacher, a man who will not resent injuries; he must be gentle in his admonitions to the opposition—perhaps God may let them change their mind and admit the Truth; they may come to their senses again and escape the snare of the devil, as they are brought back to life by God to do his will.

EVENING

By the action of his power within us He can do all things, aye far more than we ever ask or imagine.

He never faints, never is weary,
his insight is unsearchable.

God is able to bless you with ample means, so that you may always have quite enough for any emergency of your own and ample besides for any kind act to others.

For all time he is able to save.

The surpassing greatness of his power over us believers is a power which operates with the strength of the might which he exerted in raising Christ from the dead and seating him at his right hand.

Young men may faint and weary,
  the strong youths may give way,
but those who wait for the Eternal shall renew their strength,
  they put out wings like eagles,
they run and never weary,
  they walk and never faint.

MORNING

Offer to God thanks as your sacrifice,
and pay your vows to the Most High.

Do not forget beneficence and charity; these are the kind of sacrifices that are acceptable to God.

This precept shines out plain:
love I desire, not sacrifice,
knowledge of God, not any offerings.

You are the elect race, the royal priesthood, the consecrated nation, the People who belong to Him, that you may proclaim the wondrous deeds of Him who has called you from darkness to his wonderful light.

Let the inspiration of Christ dwell in your midst with all its wealth of wisdom, teach and train one another with the music of psalms, with hymns, and songs of the spiritual life; praise God with thankful hearts. Indeed, whatever you say or do, let everything be done in dependence on the Lord Jesus, giving thanks in his name to God the Father.

EVENING

For where two or three have gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Though the doors were closed, Jesus entered and stood among them, saying, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Cease your unbelief and believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "You believe because you have seen me? Blessed be those who believe though they have never seen me."

If anyone loves me he will obey my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and take up our abode with him.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain within my love. If you keep my commands you will remain within my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain within his love.

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, good temper, kindliness, generosity, fidelity, gentleness, self-control. As we live by the Spirit, let us be guided by the Spirit; let us have no vanity, no provoking, no envy of one another.

The Lord means the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is there is open freedom. But we all mirror the glory of the Lord with face unveiled, and so we are being transformed into the same likeness as himself, passing from one glory to another—for this comes of the Lord the Spirit.

MORNING

The first thing in knowledge is reverence for the Eternal,
to know the Deity is what knowledge means.

Happy is the man who gathers wisdom,
the man who gains knowledge;
her profits are richer than silver,
she brings in more than gold;
she is more precious than rubies,
no treasure can compare with her.

And here is One greater than Solomon.

Those who are doomed to perish find the story of the cross "sheer folly," but it means the power of God for those whom he saves.

When the world with all its wisdom failed to know God in his wisdom God resolved to save believers by the "sheer folly" of the Christian message. Jews demand miracles and Greeks want wisdom, but our message is Christ the crucified—a stumbling-block to Jews, "sheer folly" to Gentiles, but for those who are called, whether Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

EVENING

The Lord will rescue me from every assault of evil, he will bring me safe to his own realm in heaven.

Never will he let you slip; he who guards you never sleeps:
he who guards Israel will neither sleep nor slumber.
For the upright the Eternal is a fortress,
but he is the ruin of evil-doers.
All who shelter with thee shall rejoice,
and under thy protection sing for joy.

I pray for them—not for the world but for those whom thou hast given me do I pray; and I am glorified in them. I am to be in the world no longer, but they are to be in the world; I come to thee. Holy Father, keep them by the power of thy Name which thou hast given me, that they may be one as we are one. When I was with them, I kept them by the power of thy Name.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who in Christ has blessed us with every spiritual blessing within the heavenly sphere! He chose us in him ere the world was founded, to be consecrated and unblemished in his sight, destining us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ. Such was the purpose of his will, redounding to the praise of his glorious grace bestowed on us in the Beloved.

MORNING

I have learned how to be content wherever I am.

Religion is rich profit, provided that it goes with a contented spirit—for we bring nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it; if we have food and clothes, we must be content with that.

Rich and poor stand side by side:
it was the Eternal who made them all.
Friendliness bears fruit for a man:
better be poor and good than false.

He who is faithful with a trifle is also faithful with a large trust,
and he who is dishonest with a trifle is also dishonest with a large trust.
So if you are not faithful with dishonest mammon,
how can you ever be trusted with true Riches?

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find your souls refreshed; my yoke is kindly and my burden light.

EVENING

The Eternal is around his people now and evermore.

Where could I go from thy Spirit,
where could I flee from thy face?
I climb to heaven?—but thou art there;
I nestle in the nether-world?—and there thou art!
If I darted swift to the dawn,
to the verge of ocean afar,
thy hand even there would fall on me.

So let each loyal heart in trouble pray to thee:
the floods may roar,
but they will never reach him.
for thou wilt be his shelter,
safeguarding him in peril,
surrounding him with aid.

The power of the Most High will overshadow you
like a shelter from a storm,
a refuge from sore rain,
like streams of water in a parched waste,
like the shade of a cliff in a dry, weary plain.

MORNING

Blessed are the humble!
they will inherit the earth.

Tell the daughter of Sion,
"Here is your king coming to you,
He is gentle and mounted on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find your souls refreshed;
my yoke is kindly and my burden light.

You are to adorn yourselves inside, in the heart, with the immortal beauty of a gentle, modest spirit, which in the sight of God is of rare value.

Treat one another with the same spirit as you experience in Christ Jesus. Though he was divine by nature, he did not set store upon equality with God, but emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant; born in human guise and appearing in human form, he humbly stooped in his obedience even to die, and to die upon the cross. Therefore God raised him high and conferred on him a Name above all names, so that before the Name of Jesus every knee should bend in heaven, on earth, and underneath the earth, and every tongue confess that "Jesus Christ is Lord," to the glory of God the Father.

EVENING

You shall have treasure in heaven.

Everyone who has left brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands or houses for my name's sake will get a hundred times as much and inherit life eternal.

Not that I have already attained this or am already perfect, but I press forward to appropriate it, because I have been appropriated myself by Christ Jesus. I do not consider myself to have appropriated this; my one thought is, by forgetting what lies behind me and straining to what lies before me, to press on to the goal for the prize of God's high call in Christ Jesus.

Father, it is my will that these, thy gift to me, may be beside me where I am, to behold my glory which thou hast given me, because thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

So we shall be with the Lord for ever.

MORNING

Be wise like serpents and guileless like doves.

In the long run, a man who will reprove
gets more thanks than a flatterer.

Better a frank word of reproof
than the love that will not speak.
Wounds from a friend are honest,
but an enemy's kisses are false.

Let others praise, not yourself.

He who is careful of his lips and tongue
will manage to keep clear of trouble.

Talebearers let our secrets:
have nothing to do with a gossip.

A rebuke sinks deeper into a man of sense
than a hundred lashes into a fool.

EVENING

I will pardon their offences, their sin I never will recall.

I did forsake you for awhile,
but I will take you back right tenderly;
with a lasting love I pity you:
so promises the Eternal your redeemer.

Oh the bliss of him whose guilt is pardoned,
and his sin forgiven!
Whose spirit has made full confession!
So long as I refused to own my guilt,
I moaned unceasingly, life ebbed away.
Then did I own my sin to thee,
uncovering my iniquity;
and as I vowed I would confess,
thou didst remit my sinful guilt.

High as heaven is over earth,
so vast his love is to his worshippers;
as far as east from the west,
so far he puts our sins away from us.

As a father pities his children so the Eternal pities his worshippers.

He appeared to take [our] sins away.

MORNING

What counts is the new creation.

What is born of the flesh is flesh: what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not wonder at me telling you, "You must all be born from above." The wind blows where it wills; you can hear its sound, but you never know where it has come from or where it goes: it is the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

It was his own will that we should be born by the Word of the truth, to be a kind of firstfruits among his creatures.

As you once dedicated your members to the service of vice and lawlessness, so now dedicate them to the service of righteousness that means consecration.

I appeal to you, by all the mercy of God, to dedicate your bodies as a living sacrifice, consecrated and acceptable to God.

Instead of being moulded to this world, have your mind renewed, and so be transformed in nature, able to make out what is good and acceptable to him and perfect.

EVENING

Rely with all your heart on the Eternal,
and he will clear the road for you.

To hapless men thou are a strength,
a strength to the forlorn in woe.

I was crushed beyond what I could stand. But this was to make me rely not on myself but on God; he rescued me, he rescues still, and I rely upon him.

Such is the confidence I possess through Christ towards God. It is not that I am personally qualified; my qualifications come from God.

I will instruct you and teach you
what is the road to take;
I will give you counsel,
O humble soul.
Be not like mules and colts,
that do not understand the bridle,
unbroken creatures that require a halter's curb,
or they will not come near you.
Many a pang falls to the ungodly,
but he who trusts in the Eternal shall enjoy his favour.

MORNING

Faith means that we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see.

Brace up your minds, then, and put your hope in the grace of Jesus Christ.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed his call to go forth to a place which he would receive as an inheritance; he went forth, although he did not know where he was to go. He was waiting for the City with its fixed foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Lo, I create new heavens
  and a new earth!
On that day men shall say,
"Here is the Eternal for whom we were waiting!"
For here upon this hill
shall the Eternal grant us rest.

At present we only see the baffling reflections in a mirror,
  but then it will be face to face;
at present I am learning bit by bit,
  but then I shall understand, as all along I have myself been understood.

EVENING

I the Eternal never change.

God is no man to break his word,
no mortal to change his mind;
he promises, and does he not perform?

I will sing always of the Eternal's love,
  telling all ages of thy faithfulness.

His love will last for ever,
his faithfulness from age to age.
His kindness never fails!

The sum of thy commands is truth, and all thy just commands are ever binding.

"Fresh every morning is thy kindness,
  great is thy faithfulness!"

MORNING

You have known from childhood the sacred writings that can impart saving wisdom by faith in Christ Jesus.

Hold you to what you have been taught, hold to your convictions, remember who your teachers were.

All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for amendment, and for moral discipline, to make the man of God proficient and equip him for good work of every kind.

Fix them ever in your mind,
  tie them fast round your neck;
for their bidding will throw light upon your life,
  their directions will enlighten you,
  and to be trained thus is the way to live.
Wisdom, when you walk, will guide you,
  when you rest, she will take care of you,
  when you wake up, she will talk to you.

Thy law is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

EVENING

God is love.

For God loved the world so dearly that he gave up his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life, instead of perishing. God did not send his Son into the world to pass sentence on it, but to save the world by him.

Love lies in this, not in our love for him but in his love for us—in the sending of his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

We know what love is by this, that He laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for the brotherhood. But whoever possesses this world's goods, and notices his brother in need, and shuts his heart against him, how can love to God remain in him? Dear children, let us put our love not into words or into talk but into deeds, and make it real.

God no one has ever seen; but if we love one another, then God remains within us, and love for him is complete in us. This is how we may be sure we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us a share in his own Spirit; and we have seen, we do testify, that the Father has sent the Son as the Saviour of the world. Whoever confesses that "Jesus is the Son of God," in him God remains, and he remains in God; well, we do know, we have believed, the love God has for us. God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

MORNING

What is your life? You are but a mist, which appears for a little and then vanishes.

Let a brother of low position exult when he is raised; but let one who is rich exult in being lowered; for the rich will pass away like the flower of the grass.

Grass withers and flowers fade,
  but our God's promise stands for evermore.

Thou hast made my days no longer than a span;
  my life is a mere nothing, in thy sight,
  no better than an empty breath.
Man's busy life indeed is but a phantom,
  making an empty ado,
amassing wealth and knowing not
  who is to have his hoard.
What then can I expect, O Lord?
  It is in thee I hope.

Love never disappears.
At present we only see the baffling reflections in a mirror,
  but then it will be face to face;
at present I am learning bit by bit,
  but then I shall understand, as all along I have myself been understood.

EVENING

Come to me, all who are labouring and burdened, and I will refresh you.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
  and you will find your souls refreshed.

Even to your old age I will be the same,
  when you are grey-haired, still I will sustain you.

As an example of fortitude and endurance, brothers, take the prophets who have spoken in the name of the Lord. See, we call the steadfast happy; you have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the end of the Lord with him, seen that the Lord is very compassionate and pitiful.

No temptation has waylaid you that is beyond man's power; trust God, he will never let you be tempted beyond what you can stand, but, when temptation comes, he will provide the way out of it, so that you can bear up under it.

Is anyone of you in trouble? let him pray. Is anyone thriving? let him sing praise.

MORNING

Aim at peace with all, at that consecration without which no one will ever see the Lord.

Keep in mind whatever is true, whatever is worthy, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is attractive, whatever is high-toned, all excellence, all merit.

When Christ suffered for you he left you an example, and you must be following his footsteps.

He committed no sin,
no guile was ever found upon his lips;
He was reviled, and he made no retort,
he suffered and he never threatened,
but left everything to Him who judges justly.

Compare him who steadily endured all that hostility from sinful men, so as to keep your own hearts from fainting and failing.

We must strip off every handicap, strip off sin with its clinging folds, to run our appointed course with steadiness, our eyes fixed upon Jesus as the pioneer and the perfection of faith—Jesus, in order to reach his own appointed joy, steadily endured the cross, thinking nothing of its shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EVENING

Love in its fulness drives all dread away.

When we cry, "Abba! Father!", it is this Spirit testifying along with our own spirit that we are children of God.

O man greatly loved by God, fear not; all good be yours; be strong, be brave.

We love, because He loved us first. God proves his love for us by this, that Christ died for us when we were still sinners.

If we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son when we were enemies, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Peace I leave to you, my peace I give to you; I give it not as the world gives its "Peace!"

Love is complete with us when we have absolute confidence about the day of judgment, since in this world we are living as He lives.

MORNING

See to it that no one misses the grace of God, that no root of bitterness grows up to be a trouble by contaminating all the rest of you.

You were doing splendidly. Who was it that prevented you from obeying the Truth?

The tongue is a small member of the body, but it can boast of great exploits. The tongue proves a very world of mischief among our members, staining the whole of the body and setting fire to the round circle of existence with a flame fed by hell. It is full of deadly venom! With the tongue we bless the Lord and Father, and with the tongue we curse men made in God's own likeness.

Absolve me from my faults unknown!
And hold thy servant back from wilful sins.

Do you, beloved, build up yourselves on your most holy faith and pray in the holy Spirit, so keeping yourselves within the love of God and waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that ends in life eternal.

EVENING

It is granted you to understand the open secrets of the Realm of heaven.

Nobody has ever seen God, but God has been unfolded by the divine One, the only Son.

Blessed are your eyes, for they see,
and your ears, for they hear!

Jesus said to him, "Philip, have I been with you all this time, and yet you do not understand me? He who has seen me has seen the Father."

I have still much to tell you, but you cannot bear it at present. However, when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all the truth; for he will not speak of his own accord, he will say whatever he is told, and he will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify me for he will draw upon what is mine and disclose it to you.

The Helper, the holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and recall to you everything I have said.

The Spirit fathoms everything, even the depths of God.

We have received the Spirit—not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that comes from God, that we may understand what God bestows upon us.

MORNING

Work strenuously at your salvation with reverence.

In a race, though all run, only one man gains the prize. Run so as to win the prize. Every athlete practises self-restraint all round; but while they do it to win a fading wreath, we do it for an unfading.

If your hand is a hindrance to you, cut it off:
better be maimed and get into Life,
than keep your two hands and go to Gehenna, to the fire that is never quenched.
If your eye is a hindrance to you, tear it out:
better get into God's Realm with one eye,
than keep your two eyes and be thrown into Gehenna,
where their worm never dies and the fire is never put out.

Keep cool, keep awake. Your enemy the devil prowls like a roaring lion, looking out for someone to devour. Resist him; and learn to pay the tax of suffering. Once you have suffered for a little, the God of all grace who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will repair, recruit, and strengthen you.

For the grace of God schools us to renounce worldly passions and to live a life of self-mastery, of integrity, and of godliness in this present world.

EVENING

For God is indeed with the godly!

The first thing in knowledge is reverence for the Eternal,
to know the Deity is what knowledge means.

This is how we may be sure we know him, by obeying his commands. He who says, "I know him," but does not obey his commands, is a liar and the truth is not in him; but whoever obeys his word, in him love to God is really complete.

It is God's will that you should be consecrated. He who disregards this, disregards not man but the God who gave you his holy Spirit.

You who participate in a heavenly calling, look at Jesus, at the apostle and high priest of our confession; he is faithful to Him who appointed him.

Let us hold fast to our confession; for ours is no high priest who cannot have sympathy with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every respect like ourselves, yet without sinning. So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in the hour of need.

MORNING

Put on God's armour.

"Not by fighting, not by force, but by my spirit!"
so the Lord of hosts declares.

The Spirit assists us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray aright, but the Spirit pleads for us with sighs that are beyond words.

We know also that those who love God, those who have been called in terms of his purpose, have his aid and interest in everything.

Live a life worthy of your calling, with perfect modesty and gentleness, showing forbearance to one another patiently, zealous in love to preserve the unity of the Spirit by binding peace upon yourselves.

Never let evil get the better of you; get the better of evil by doing good.

Loud shall be my joy in the Eternal;
he has clothed me with victory,
arrayed me in a robe of triumph.

EVENING

Call his name "Immanuel" (God is with us).

She will bear a son and you are to call him "Jesus," for he will save his people from their sins.

"A wonder of a counsellor,
a divine hero,
a father for all time,
a peaceful prince!"
Great is his authority,
endless is his peace.

In him we enjoy our redemption, that is, the forgiveness of sins. He is the likeness of the unseen God, born first, before all the creation—for it was by him that all things were created both in heaven and on earth, both the seen and the unseen, including Thrones, angelic Lords, celestial Powers and Rulers; all things have been created by him and for him; he is prior to all, and all coheres in him.

Above every Name that is to be named not only in this age but in the age to come—he has put everything under his feet and set him as head over everything—King of kings and Lord of lords.

MORNING

A stainless highroad shall appear, its name "The Sacred Way."

Folly is loud and alluring.
She calls to him who is devoid of sense,
"Sweet are stolen waters,
bread in secret is delicious!"
Little he knows that dead men are within,
the guests of Death!

Leave your foolish ways and live,
follow the ways of thoughtful sense.

Teach me, Eternal, how thine orders run, and I will follow them step by step; make me alive to follow thee, and turn mine eyes from cravings vain.

Enter by the narrow gate,
for the gate is broad and the road is wide that leads to destruction.
But the road that leads to life is both narrow and close.

Jesus, the fresh, living way which he has inaugurated for us.

EVENING

Like sheep we had all gone astray,
we had each taken his own way.

But all are faithless,
one and all are tainted;
not one does right,
no, not a single one.

David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Eternal."

He reproved Peter, telling him, "Get behind me, you Satan! Your outlook is not God's but man's."

Whoever obeys the whole of the Law and only makes a single slip, is guilty of everything.

When we were still in weakness, Christ died in due time for the ungodly. For the ungodly! Why, a man will hardly die for the just—though one might bring oneself to die, if need be, for a good man. But God proves his love for us by this, that Christ died for us when we were still sinners.

If we were reconciled to God by the death of his son when we were enemies, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Not only so, but we triumph in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we now enjoy our reconciliation.

MORNING

Be steadfast in prayer.

The prayers of the righteous have a powerful effect.

Peter was closely guarded in prison, while earnest prayer for him was offered to God by the church.

That very night [he] lay asleep between two soldiers. But an angel of the Lord flashed on him, and a light shone in the cell. The fetters dropped from his hands. Then said the angel, "Put on your coat and follow me." And he followed him out. Then Peter said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod." He went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was surnamed Mark, where a number had met for prayer.

When you pray,
go into your room and shut the door,
pray to your Father who is in secret,
and your Father who sees what is secret will reward you.
Do not pray by idle rote like pagans,
For they suppose they will be heard the more they say;
you must not copy them;
your Father knows your needs before you ask him.

EVENING

He saves your life from death,
he crowns you with his love and pity.

Since the children then share blood and flesh, he himself participated in their nature, so that by dying he might crush him who wields the power of death (that is to say, the devil) and release from thraldom those who lay under a life-long fear of death.

Our baptism in his death made us share his burial, so that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live and move in the new sphere of Life. For if we have grown into him by a death like his, we shall grow into him by a resurrection like his.

This is life eternal, that they know thee, the only real God, and him whom thou hast sent, even Jesus Christ.

Death is swallowed up in victory.
O Death, where is your victory?
O Death, where is your sting?
The victory is ours, thank God! He makes it ours by our Lord Jesus Christ.

MORNING

Our Father.

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for where is the son who is not disciplined by his father?

Recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle of suffering, partly by being held up yourselves to obloquy and anguish, partly by making common cause with those who fared thus; conscious that elsewhere you had higher, you had lasting possessions. Now do not drop that confidence of yours. Steady patience is what you need, doing the will of God you may receive what you were promised.

If for all your evil you know to give your children what is good,
how much more will your Father in heaven give good to those who ask him?

Your heavenly Father knows your need. Seek God's Realm and his goodness, and all that will be yours over and above.

EVENING

God is no man to break his word.

Then shall the whole world learn that it is I
who saves you.

I am going to the Father, and I will do whatever you ask in my name, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

I will not leave you forlorn; I am coming to you because I am living and you will be living too. You will understand, on that day, that I am in my Father and you are in me and I am in you. He who possesses my commands and obeys them is he who loves me, and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and appear to him. Truly, truly I tell you, he who believes in me will do the very deeds I do, and still greater deeds than these.

The seventy came back with joy. "Lord," they said, "the very dæmons obey us in your name."

Not one of the good promises made by the Eternal failed; all were fulfilled.

MORNING

Love one another as I have loved you.

If anyone declares, "I love God," and yet hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who will not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot possibly love the God whom he has never seen. And we get this command from him, that he who loves God is to love his brother also.

"A man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho fell among robbers who stripped and belaboured him and then went off leaving him half-dead. A Levite who came to the spot looked at him but passed on the opposite side. A Samaritan traveller came to where he was. He went to him, bound his wounds up, pouring oil and wine into them, mounted him on his own steed, took him to an inn, and attended to him. Which of these men, in your opinion, proved a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The man who took pity on him." Jesus said to him, "Then go and do the same."

Love your neighbour as yourself.

Love your enemies and help them,
lend to them without expecting any return;
then you will be sons of the Most High—
for he is kind even to the ungrateful and the evil.

EVENING

At present we only see the baffling reflections in a mirror.

Ever since the world was created, his invisible nature, his everlasting power and divine being, have been quite perceptible in what he has made.

We see Jesus who was put lower than the angels for a little while to suffer death, and who has been crowned with glory and honour that by God's grace he might taste death for everyone.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing."
Then with a loud cry Jesus said, "Father, I trust my spirit to thy hands," and with these words he expired.
The army-captain and his men, who were watching Jesus, said, "This man was certainly a son of God!"

"Faith and hope and love last on, these three," but the greatest of all is love. Make love your aim, and then set your heart on spiritual gifts.

MORNING

It is high time to waken up.

"Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not slip into temptation."

Take heed to yourselves in case your hearts get overpowered by dissipation and drunkenness and worldly anxieties. From hour to hour keep awake, praying that you may succeed in escaping all dangers to come.

Then shall the Realm of heaven be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom and the bride. Five of them were stupid and five were sensible. The stupid said to the sensible, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the sensible replied, "No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Better go to the dealers and buy for yourselves." Now while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom arrived. Keep on the watch then, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Let us drop the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of the light. Put on the character of the Lord Jesus Christ, and never think how to gratify the cravings of the flesh.

EVENING

When the Spirit of truth comes he will disclose to you what is to come.

We would like you, brothers, to understand about those who are asleep in death; you must not grieve for them, like the rest of men who have no hope. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then it follows that by means of Jesus God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Never again will they be hungry, never again athirst,
for the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
guiding them to fountains of living water;
and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes.

Then he who was seated on the throne said, "Lo, I make all things new. I am the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end."

The Lord Jesus Christ will transform the body that belongs to our low estate till it resembles the body of his Glory, by the same power that enables him to make everything subject to himself.

MORNING

If we have died with him, we shall live with him.

He said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross day after day, and so follow me; whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it."

On behalf of Christ you have the favour of suffering no less than of believing in him.

Do not be surprised at the ordeal that has come to test you. You are sharing what Christ suffered; so rejoice in it, that you may also rejoice and exult when his glory is revealed.

Five times have I got forty lashes (all but one) from the Jews, three times I have been beaten by the Romans, once pelted with stones, three times shipwrecked—through labour and hardship, through many a sleepless night, through hunger and thirst, cold and ill-clad.

All who want to live the religious life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

Present suffering, I hold, is a mere nothing compared to the glory that we are to have revealed—for we share his sufferings in order to share his glory.

If we endure, then we shall reign with him.

EVENING

O thou Eternal, my God, I called for help to thee,
and thou hast caused me to recover,
lifting me up.

God's sacrifice is a soul with its evil crushed:
a heart broken with penitence, O God, never wilt thou despise.

When I lay fainting,
I remember the Eternal,
and my prayer reached thee,
reached thy sacred shrine.
From the pit thou didst lift my life,
O Eternal my God.

Ask and the gift will be yours,
seek and you will find,
knock and the door will open to you.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then ask whatever you like and you shall have it.

MORNING

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good deeds, not ceasing to meet together, as is the habit of some, but admonishing one another.

For where two or three have gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Those who worshipped the Eternal talked to each other, and the Eternal heeded them and heard them.

On the sabbath he entered the synagogue as was his custom.

Sing to the Eternal, praise him,
day after day tell of his saving aid.
Grandeur and majesty attend him,
splendour and power are in his sanctuary.

I would rather sit at the threshold of God's house
than live inside the tents of worldly men.
How dear thy dwelling is,
O Lord of hosts!
Soul and body thrill with joy over the living God,
over thine own altars,
O Lord of hosts, my King, my God.

EVENING

Let us see the Father.

Jesus said to him, "Philip, have I been with you all this time, and yet you do not understand me? He who has seen me has seen the Father. What do you mean by saying, 'Let us see the Father'? Do you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you all I do not speak of my own accord; it is the Father who remains ever in me, who is performing his own deeds."

I am not alone, for the Father is with me . . . in me you may have peace; in the world you have trouble, but courage! I have conquered the world.

The Father loves the Son and has given him control over everything.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain within my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain within my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain within his love.

My Father and yours, my God and yours.

MORNING

Do not be ashamed to testify to our Lord.

The Lord turned round and looked at Peter, and then Peter remembered what the Lord had told him, that "Before cock-crow to-day, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Then Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" "Why, Lord," he said, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," said Jesus.

So they called the men in and ordered them not to speak or teach a single sentence about the Name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Decide for yourselves whether it is right before God to obey you rather than God; certainly we cannot give up speaking of what we have seen and heard."

You will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses. For you are not the speakers, it is the Spirit of your Father that is speaking through you.

For God has not given us a timid spirit but a spirit of power and love and discipline.

[Be] proud of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who has faith.

EVENING

For I keep in mind my purpose for you, a purpose of weal, not of woe, to let you have hope for the future.

I will ratify my own compact with you, that you may learn that I am the Eternal. I forgive you for all you have done.

Turn to God,
who does great things beyond our ken,
marvels beyond all reckoning.

May his glorious might nerve you with full power to endure and to be patient cheerfully, whatever comes, thanking the Father who has qualified us to share the lot of the saints in the Light, rescuing us from the power of the Darkness and transferring us to the realm of his beloved Son! In him we enjoy our redemption, that is, the forgiveness of sins.

"Pray to me, and I will answer you; seek me, and you shall find me; when you seek for me with all your heart, I will reveal myself to you," says the Eternal.

MORNING

A forbearing man is better than a fighting man;
he who controls himself is better than a conqueror.

Never let the sun set upon your exasperation, give the devil no chance.

Since then you have been raised with Christ, aim at what is above.

Tell no lies to one another. Drop all bitter feeling and passion and anger and clamouring and insults, together with all malice.

Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to talk, slow to be angry—for human anger does not promote divine righteousness; so clear away all the foul rank growth of malice, and make a soil of humble modesty for the Word which roots itself inwardly with power to save your souls.

As God's own chosen, then, as consecrated and beloved, be clothed with compassion, kindliness, humility, gentleness, and good temper—forbear and forgive each other in any case of complaint; as Christ forgave you, so must you forgive.

EVENING

For we do enter the Rest by our faith.

Woe to men who on their beds
some mischief plan,
and carry it out when morning comes,
because they can!

"Ungodly men are like the restless sea,
that never can be still,
whose waters throw up dirt and mire;
no prosperous peace for the ungodly," says my God.

Come to me, all ye labouring and burdened,
and I will refresh you.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find your souls refreshed;
my yoke is kindly and my burden light.

As we are justified by faith, then, let us enjoy the peace we have with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

He came with a gospel of peace for those far away (that is, for you), for it is through him that we enjoy our access to the Father.

MORNING

But we all mirror the glory of the Lord with face unveiled, and so we are being transformed into the same likeness as himself, passing from one glory to another.

Then all who were seated in the Sanhedrin fixed their eyes on him, and saw that his face shone like the face of an angel.

So they stoned Stephen, who called on the Lord, saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then he knelt down and cried aloud, "Lord, let not this sin stand against them!"

I beg of you to live a life worthy of your calling, with perfect modesty and gentleness, showing forbearance to one another patiently, zealous in love to preserve the unity of the Spirit by binding peace upon yourselves.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope, graciously encourage your hearts and strengthen them for all good in deed and word.

Lord, may thy loving favour rest on us,
and prosper all the work we undertake.

EVENING

The Eternal guards you.

When a man's life pleases the Eternal,
he gives him a sure footing;
he may fall, but never falls down,
for the Eternal holds him by the hand.

The Eternal will guard you from all harm, he will preserve your life.
Though mountains be removed,
and hills be shaken,
never shall my love leave you,
my compact for your welfare shall stand firm:
so promises the Eternal in his pity.

I do believe I shall yet see
the Eternal good to me, in the land of the living.
Wait for the Eternal; be strong, my soul, be brave;
yes, wait for the Eternal.

My road may run through a glen of gloom,
but I fear no harm, for thou art beside me;
thy club, thy staff—they give me courage.

MORNING

You are my friends—if you do what I command you.

This is what I command you, to love one another.

I call you servants no longer, because a servant does not know what his master is doing: I call you friends, because I have imparted to you all that I have learned from my Father.

A friend is always a friend,
he is a born brother for adversity.

Do you not know that the world's friendship means enmity to God? Whoever, then, chooses to be the world's friend, turns enemy to God.

Abraham believed God, and this was counted to him as righteousness—he was called God's friend.

The Eternal would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

For we have all been receiving grace after grace from his fulness; while the Law was given through Moses, grace and reality are ours through Jesus Christ.

EVENING

What a fathomless wealth lies in the wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable his judgments! How mysterious his methods!

For God has consigned all men to disobedience,
that he may have mercy upon all.

As rain and snow from heaven fall not in vain,
but water earth until it yields
seed for the sower, food for hungry men,
so with the promise that has passed my lips:
it falls not fruitless and in vain,
but works out what I will,
and carries out my purpose.

The vision has its own appointed hour,
it ripens, it will flower;
if it be long, then wait,
for it is sure, and it will not be late.

May you be so fixed and founded in love that you can grasp with all the saints what is the meaning of "the Breadth," "the Length," "the Depth," and "the Height," by knowing the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge! May you be filled with the entire fulness of God!—who by the action of his power within us is able to do all, aye far more than we can ever ask or imagine.

MORNING

We can say confidently,
The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.
What can men do to me?

He is a refuge in desperate hours;
those who know what thou art can trust in thee,
for never wilt thou abandon those who seek thee.

Hold to integrity, remain upright;
there is a future for the peaceable.

Listen, all ye who care for the good cause,
O people who lay my laws to heart!
Fear not the taunts of men;
when they revile you, never be dismayed;
for they shall be moth-eaten like a robe,
like wool consumed by worms,
but my deliverance endures for ever,
my triumph knows no end.

Help comes from the Eternal to good men;
he is their refuge in the evil hour.

EVENING

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then it follows that by means of Jesus God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Let not your hearts be disquieted. In my Father's house there are many abodes; were it not so, would I have told you I was going to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me.

Why search among the dead for him who is alive? He is not here, he has risen.

The dust returns to earth once more,
and the spirit to God who gave it.

As we have borne the likeness of material Man, so we are to bear the likeness of the heavenly Man.

For this perishing body must be invested with the imperishable, and this mortal body invested with immortality.

Encourage one another with these words.

MORNING

What God has cleansed, you must not count as common.

They entered a Samaritan village to make preparations for him, but the people would not receive him because his face was turned in the direction of Jerusalem. So when the disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, will you have us bid fire come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and checked them.

As you would like men to do to you,
so do to them.
If you love only those who love you, what credit is that to you?

In cleansing their hearts by faith he made not the slightest distinction between us and them.

After that I looked, and there was a great host whom no one could count, from every nation and tribe and people and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clad in white robes, with palm-branches in their hands, and they cried with a loud voice, "Saved by our God who is seated on the throne, and by the Lamb!"

EVENING

By remaining steadfast and drawing encouragement from the scripture we may cherish hope.

They were perfectly ready to receive the Word and made a daily study of the scriptures.

All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for amendment, and for moral discipline, to make the man of God proficient and equip him for good work of every kind.

Attend to the word; it shines like a lamp within a darksome spot, till the Day dawns and the daystar rises within your hearts—understanding this, at the outset, that no prophetic scripture allows a man to interpret it by himself; for prophecy never came by human impulse, it was when carried away by the holy Spirit that the holy men of God spoke.

The Eternal's law is a sound law,
reviving life;
the Eternal's faith is a clean faith,
it will last for ever;
the Eternal's rulings are upright,
and altogether just—
more to be prized than gold,
than plenty of rare gold.

MORNING

To set you consecrated and unblemished and irreproachable in his presence.

Blessed are the pure in heart!
they will see God.

If for all your evil you know to give your children what is good,
how much more will your Father give the holy Spirit from heaven to those who ask him?

Who is a God like thee?—forgiving sins
and passing over wrong,
thou wilt have pity upon us again,
and wash off our iniquities.

I pray for them for they are thine, and I am glorified in them. I am to be in the world no longer, but they are to be in the world. Holy Father, keep them by the power of thy Name which thou hast given me, that they may be one as we are one.

Do you, beloved, build up yourselves on your most holy faith and pray in the holy Spirit, so keeping yourselves within the love of God.

EVENING

O thou Eternal, thy dead shall live again,
awakening from the dust
with songs of joy;
for thy dew falls with light and life,
till dead spirits arise.

"Son of man," he said, "can these bones live?" "O Lord Eternal," I answered, "that is known only to thyself." He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones; say to them, 'O dry bones, listen to the word of the Eternal.' The Lord the Eternal has this word for the bones: 'I will make the breath of life enter you, I will put sinews upon you and cover you with flesh, and put breath into you; so shall you live, and learn that I am the Eternal.' "

You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you moved as you followed the course of this world.

But God was so rich in mercy that for his great love to us he made us live together with Christ.

This is life eternal, that they know thee, the only real God, and him whom thou hast sent, even Jesus Christ.

MORNING

Let them make me a shrine, that I may dwell among them.

For we are the temple of the living God—
Therefore come away from these,
separate, saith the Lord,
touch not what is unclean.

Shun immorality! Any other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his body. Do you not know that your body is the temple of the holy Spirit within you—the Spirit you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought for a price; then glorify God with your body.

You are a building that rests on the apostles and prophets as its foundation, with Christ Jesus as the corner-stone; in him the whole structure is welded together and rises into a sacred temple in the Lord, and in him you are yourselves built into this to form a habitation for God in the Spirit.

EVENING

Put not thy servant on his trial,
for before thee no living soul can be acquitted.

I the Eternal search the mind,
I test the heart.

Everyone has lapsed,
one and all are tainted.
Like tombs whitewashed;
they look comely on the outside,
but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all manner of impurity.
So to men you seem just,
but inside you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Whoever obeys the whole of the Law and only makes a single slip, is guilty of everything.

He also told the following parable to certain persons who were sure of their own goodness and looked down upon everybody else. "Two men went up to pray in the temple; one was a Pharisee and the other was a taxgatherer. The Pharisee stood up and said his prayer as follows; 'I thank thee, O God, I am not like the rest of men, thieves, rogues, and immoral.' But the taxgatherer stood far away and would not lift even his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'O God, have mercy on me for my sins!' I tell you, he went home accepted by God rather than the other."

MORNING

"Give us more faith!"

The Lord said, "If you had faith the size of a grain of mustard-seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

Jesus at once stretched his hand out and caught him, saying, "How little you trust me! Why did you doubt?"

He touched their eyes, saying, "As you believe, so your prayer is granted," and their eyes were opened.

"Daughter," he said to her, "your faith has made you well; go in peace and be free from your complaint."

For I am proud of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who has faith, for the Jew first and for the Greek as well. God's righteousness is revealed in it by faith and for faith—as it is written, By faith shall the righteous live.

As we are justified by faith, then, let us enjoy the peace we have with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have got access to this grace where we have our standing, and triumph in the hope of God's glory.

EVENING

Leave all to the Eternal, who loves you;
never will he let good men come to grief.

He said to them, "Why are you afraid? How little you trust God!"

Neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, no powers of the Height or of the Depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to part us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This body may break up, but even then
my life shall have a sight of God.

Let all your anxieties fall upon him, for his great interest is in you.

Thou dost protect and prosper steadfast souls,
for they rely on thee.

O thou Eternal, thy dead shall live again,
awakening from the dust
with songs of joy;
for thy dew falls with light and life,
till dead spirits arise.

MORNING

It is the Eternal who supplies wisdom,
from him come insight and knowledge.

Can you discover the deep things of God?
can you reach the Almighty's range of wisdom?
Higher it is than heaven—how can you match it?
deeper than death—how can you measure it?

Christ Jesus, God has made our "Wisdom."
Here is One greater than Solomon.
For when the world with all its wisdom failed to know God in his wisdom, God resolved to save believers by the "sheer folly" of Christ the crucified.

The wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, forbearing, conciliatory, full of mercy and wholesome fruit, unambiguous, straightforward.

Whoever of you is defective in wisdom, let him ask God who gives to all men without question or reproach, and the gift will be his.

EVENING

"Peace, be quiet."

Tell him, he must be calm, never quail, never be afraid.

Trust in the Eternal and do right,
be loyal to him.

Leave all to him, rely on him,
and he will see to it.
Leave it to the Eternal and be patient;
fret not over the successful man,
who aims to slay the upright,
and carries out his wicked plan.
Fret not—
Evildoers shall indeed be rooted out,
and the land left to those who wait for the Eternal.
The ungodly's hope will come to nothing.
The good man's memory never fades.
He has no fear of evil tidings,
he trusts the Eternal with a steady heart;
his heart is firm and fearless.

My peace I give to you; I give it not as the world gives its "Peace!" Let not your hearts be disquieted. Peace I leave to you.

MORNING

You are all sons of the Light and sons of the day.

Woe to those who call good evil,
and call evil good,
who make out darkness to be light,
light to be darkness.

Your eye is the lamp of the body;
when your eye is sound,
then the whole of your body has light.
So if your whole body has light, without any corner of it in darkness, it will be lit up entirely, as when a lamp lights you with its rays.

In him life lay,
and this life was the Light for men:
amid the darkness the Light shone,
but the darkness did not master it.

If we live and move within the light, as he is within the light, then we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from every sin.

We do not belong to the night or the darkness. Well then, we must not sleep like the rest of men, but be wakeful and sober.

EVENING

The Eternal is gracious and pitiful.

For he feeds his flock like a shepherd,
and gathers them in his arms.

He leads me to refreshing streams,
he revives life in me.
He deals not with us as our guilt deserves;
but, high as heaven is over earth,
so vast his love is to his worshippers;
as far as east from the west,
so far he puts our sins away from us.

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing?
Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unless your Father wills it.
Fear not, then, you are worth far more than sparrows!

MORNING

Since then you have been raised with Christ, aim at what is above.

For the passion of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the passion of the Spirit against the flesh—the two are at issue, so that you are not free to do as you please.

The law of the Spirit brings the life which is in Christ Jesus.

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, good temper, kindliness, generosity, fidelity, gentleness, self-control; there is no law against those who practise such things.

As we live by the Spirit, let us be guided by the Spirit.

Bear yourselves uprightly before pagans; so that they may come to glorify God by what they see of your good conduct.

EVENING

He who has seen me has seen the Father.

The Logos existed in the very beginning,
the Logos was with God,
the Logos was divine.
The Logos became flesh and tarried among us.

He had no beauty to attract our eyes,
  no charm to make us choose him—
  he was despised, we took no heed of him.
And yet ours was the pain he bore,
  the sorrow he endured!
He was ill-treated, yet he bore it humbly,
  he never would complain.
They did away with him unjustly;
though he was guilty of no violence,
  nor had he uttered one false word.

And when they came to the place called The Skull they crucified him there with the criminals, one at his right and one at his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing."

This is my command: you are to love one another as I have loved you. To lay life down for his friends, man has no greater love than that. You are my friends—if you do what I command you.

If anyone loves me he will obey my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and take up our abode with him.

MORNING

Make up your mind never to put any stumbling-block or hindrance in your brother's way.

Let us stop criticizing one another.

Why do you note the splinter in your brother's eye and fail to see the plank in your own eye? How dare you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," and you never notice the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite! take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see properly to take out the splinter in your brother's eye.

Welcome a man of weak faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his scruples.

If your brother is being injured because you eat a certain food, then you are no longer living by the rule of love. Do not let that food of yours ruin the man for whom Christ died. Your rights must not get a bad name.

I am quite certain, my brothers, that even as it is you have ample goodness of heart, you are filled with knowledge of every kind, and you are well able to give advice to one another.

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good deeds—not ceasing to meet together, as is the habit of some, but admonishing one another.

EVENING

We love, because He loved us first.

To lay life down for his friends, man has no greater love than that.

When we were still in weakness, Christ died in due time for the ungodly.

Dead in trespasses as we were, God was so rich in mercy that for his great love to us he made us live together with Christ; together with Christ he raised us.

You never knew him, but you love him; for the moment you do not see him, but you believe in him, and you will thrill with an unspeakable and glorious joy to obtain the outcome of your faith in the salvation of your souls.

For I am controlled by the love of Christ, convinced that as One has died for all, then all have died, and that he died for all in order to have the living live no longer for themselves but for him who died and rose for them.

Lead lives of love, just as Christ loved you and gave himself up for you to be a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

MORNING

Never give up prayer, thank God for everything.

I call to God,
and the Eternal helps me;
evening, morning, and at noon.

Do not pray by idle rote like pagans,
for they suppose they will be heard the more they say;
you must not copy them;
your Father knows your needs before you ask him.

Watch and pray so that you may not slip into temptation. The spirit is eager but the flesh is weak.

Bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

So too the Spirit assists us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray aright, but the Spirit pleads for us with sighs that are beyond words, and He who searches the human heart knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, since the Spirit pleads before God for the saints.

I will pray in the Spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing praise in the Spirit, but I will also sing praise with my mind.

Is anyone of you in trouble? let him pray. Is anyone thriving? let him sing praise.

EVENING

Fear not, you little flock, for your Father's delight is to give you the Realm.

Present suffering, I hold, is a mere nothing compared to the glory that we are to have revealed. Even the creation waits with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed.

We do not yet see all things controlled by man; what we do see is, Jesus who was put lower than the angels for a little while to suffer death, and who has been crowned with glory and honour, that by God's grace he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons to glory, it was befitting that He should perfect the Pioneer of their salvation by suffering.

Think what a love the Father has for us, in letting us be called "children of God!" And such we are. The world does not recognize us? That is simply because it did not recognize him. We are children of God now, beloved; what we are to be is not apparent yet, but we do know that when he appears we are to be like him—for we are to see him as he is.

And everyone who rests this hope on him, purifies himself as He is pure.

MORNING

It is not what enters a man's mouth that defiles him;
what defiles a man is what comes out of his mouth.

Tell no lies to one another.

A reckless tongue wounds like a sword,
but there is healing power in thoughtful words.
Truth told endures:
a lie lasts only for a little while.

I tell you, men will have to account on the day of judgment for every light word they utter;
for by your words you will be acquitted,
and by your words you will be condemned.

He who would love Life
and enjoy good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking guile.

Set a watch upon my mouth, O thou Eternal,
guard thou the door of my lips;
may I have no mind to evil,
to take part in godless doings.

EVENING

Try the Eternal; you will find him kind.

The Eternal's love is lasting,
and will never fail.
Fresh every morning is thy kindness,
great is thy faithfulness!
It is good to wait in silence
for the help of the Eternal.

The Eternal longs to favour you,
and moves to show you pity.
Like a shelter from a storm,
a refuge from sore rain,
like streams of water in a parched waste
like the shade of a cliff in a dry, weary plain.

The power of the Most High will overshadow you.

Fear not, for I am with you,
I am your God, be not dismayed;
I will strengthen, I will support you,
I will uphold you with my trusty hand.

MORNING

Reverence for the Eternal trains men to be wise,
and to be humble is the way to honour.

When you have done all you are bidden, say, "We are but servants; we have only done our duty."

Though he was divine by nature, he did not set store upon equality with God, but emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant; born in human guise and appearing in human form, he humbly stooped in his obedience even to die, and to die upon the cross.

Whoever wants to be the great man among you must be your servant,
and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of all;
just as the Son of man has not come to be served but to serve.

EVENING

Ever since the world was created, his invisible nature, his everlasting power and divine being, have been quite perceptible in what he has made.

The heavens proclaim God's splendour,
  the sky speaks of his handiwork;
day after day takes up the tale,
  night after night makes him known;
their speech has never a word,
  not a sound for the ear,
and yet their message spreads the wide world over,
  their meaning carries to earth's end.

He pours the streams into the valleys,
  that flow between the mountains,
where all the wild beasts drink,
  wild asses quench their thirst,
there the wild birds settle,
  singing among the branches,
as the great trees drink their fill,
  the cedars the Eternal sowed on Lebânon.

The God who made the world and all things in it, Lord of heaven and earth, gives life and breath and all things to men.

MORNING

You are not your own, you were bought for a price; then glorify God.

For in the case of people who have been once enlightened, who tasted the heavenly Gift, who participated in the holy Spirit, who tasted the goodness of God's word and the powers of the world to come, and then fell away—it is impossible to make them repent afresh, since they crucify the Son of God in their own persons and hold him up to obloquy.

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,

"To-day, when you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts."

Brothers, take care lest there be a wicked, unbelieving heart in any of you, moving you to be apostates from the living God.

I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, Christ lives in me; the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me.

EVENING

When you have done all you are bidden, say, "We are but servants; we have only done our duty."

No servant can serve two masters:
either he will hate one and love the other,
or else he will stand by the one and despise the other—
you cannot serve God and Mammon.

A man is justified simply by faith in Jesus Christ and not by doing what the Law commands.

Now a worker has his wage counted to him as a due, not as a favour; but a man who instead of "working" believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, has his faith counted as righteousness.

For it is by grace you have been saved, as you had faith; it is not your doing but God's gift, not the outcome of what you have done—lest anyone should pride himself on that; God has made us what we are, creating us in Christ Jesus for the good deeds which are prepared beforehand by God as our sphere of action.

Put not thy servant on his trial,
for before thee no living soul can be acquitted.

The Eternal's love is everlasting,
his loyalty goes on to children's children.

MORNING

Some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.

O man, he has told you what is good;
what does the Eternal ask from you
but to be just and kind
and live in quiet fellowship with your God?

Pride ends in disaster;
  haughtiness means a downfall.
Better be modest among poor folk
  than divide plunder with the proud.
A man's ways seem all right to himself,
  but the Eternal has the verdict on his life.
Trust your affairs to the Eternal.

Search me, O God, and know my heart,
  test me and try my thoughts;
see if I am taking a wrong course,
  and do thou lead me on the lines of life eternal.

EVENING

Even to your old age I will be the same,
  when you are grey-haired, still I will sustain you.

Some, weakened by their sinful ways,
  were sick and suffering through evildoing;
they cried to the Eternal in their need,
  to save them from their evil plight;
he sent his word to heal them and preserve their life.

He pardons all your sins,
  and all your sicknesses he heals,
he saves your life from death,
  he crowns you with his love and pity.

He feeds his flock like a shepherd,
  and gathers them in his arms.

As an eagle stirs its nestlings,
  fluttering over its brood,
spreading its wings to catch them,
  carrying them on its pinions,
so the Eternal was their leader.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, "rejoice."

Let all your anxieties fall upon him.

MORNING

If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

Moses refused, when he had grown up, to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ill-treatment with God's people he preferred to the passing pleasures of sin, considering obloquy with the messiah to be richer wealth than Egypt's treasures.

Then one of the Presbyters addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clad in white robes? where have they come from?" I said to him, "You know, my lord." So he told me, "These are the people who have come out of the great Distress, who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, aye and his own life,
he cannot be a disciple of mine.

Everyone of you who will not part with all his goods—
he cannot be a disciple of mine.

Do you not know that the world's friendship means enmity to God? Whoever, then, chooses to be the world's friend, turns enemy to God.

Blessed are you when men denounce you and persecute you and utter all manner of evil against you for my sake; rejoice and exult in it, for your reward is rich in heaven; that is how they persecuted the prophets before you.

EVENING

"Tell me," he said, "what you think about the Christ."

Jesus the pioneer and the perfection of faith—who, in order to reach his own appointed joy, steadily endured the cross, thinking nothing of its shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Who was born of David's offspring by natural descent and installed as Son of God with power by the Spirit of holiness when he was raised from the dead.

The stone that the builders rejected
is the chief stone now of the corner.

I am the real and living way. If you knew me, you would know my Father too.

It is in Christ that the entire Fullness of deity has settled bodily, it is in him that you reach your full life.

I would know him in the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, with my nature transformed.

MORNING

Every good tree bears sound fruit.

I had planted you a noble vine,
of right good stock.
and into what a foul thing you have turned,
a vine wild and degenerate!

For in me (that is, in my flesh) no good dwells, I know; the wish is there, but not the power of doing what is right. I cannot be good as I desire to be, and I do wrong against my wishes.

Who will rescue me from this body of death? God will! Thanks be to him through Jesus Christ our Lord!

I am the real Vine, and my Father is the vine-dresser; he cuts away any branch on me which is not bearing fruit, and cleans every branch which does bear fruit, to make it bear richer fruit.

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who remains in me, as I in him, bears rich fruit (because apart from me you can do nothing).

As you bear rich fruit and prove yourselves my disciples, my Father is glorified.

May you be fruitful and increase in the doing of all good, as you thus know God!

EVENING

No one can see God's Realm unless he is born from above.

There is a new creation whenever a man comes to be in Christ; what is old is gone, the new has come.

Our old self has been crucified with him in order to crush the sinful body and free us from any further slavery to sin. As we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him.

So you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Cleansing you from all your impieties and purifying you from all your idols; I will give you a new nature, and I will put a new spirit into you; I will take away your hard nature and give you a nature that can be touched; I will put my own spirit within you, I will make you live by my laws, and you shall obey and observe my orders.

Off with anger, rage, malice, slander.

You have stripped off the old nature with its practices, and put on the new nature, which is renewed in the likeness of its Creator.

MORNING

Sin's wage is death, but God's gift is life eternal in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I have no desire for anyone to die, says the Lord the Eternal. So repent and live.

Do you not know you are servants of the master you obey, of the master to whom you yield yourselves obedient, whether it is Sin, whose service ends in death, or Obedience, whose service ends in righteousness?

When you served sin, what did you gain then by it all? Nothing but what you are now ashamed of!

He who loves his life loses it, and he who cares not for his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

If anyone serves me, let him follow me,
and where I am, there shall my servant also be:
if anyone serves me,
my Father will honour him.

And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells within you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies live by his indwelling Spirit in your lives.

EVENING

Thou wilt reveal the path to life.

The Eternal's hand is not too short to save,
the Eternal's ear is not too dull to hear!
It is your own iniquities that interfere
between your God and you.

Enter by the narrow gate:
for the gate is broad and the road is wide that leads to destruction,
and many enter that way.
But the road that leads to life is both narrow and close,
and there are few who find it.

Jesus said to him, "I am the real and living way: no one comes to the Father except by means of me. If you knew me, you would know my Father too. You know him now and you have seen him."

Have confidence to enter the holy Presence in virtue of the blood of Jesus, by the fresh, living way which he has inaugurated for us, and since we have a great Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart, in absolute assurance of faith.

Let us hold the hope we avow without wavering (for we can rely on him who gave us the Promise).

MORNING

Do not be troubled about to-morrow;
to-morrow will take care of itself.
The day's own trouble is quite enough for the day.

He made you feel your need of him, he let you hunger and then fed you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had ever known, that he might make you know that man lives not only by food but by every word that comes out of the lips of the Eternal.

Those who wait for the Eternal shall renew their strength,
they put out wings like eagles,
they run and never weary,
they walk and never faint.

When they carry you off to trial, never worry beforehand about what you are to say; for he who speaks is not you but the holy Spirit.

I have learned how to be content wherever I am. I know how to live humbly; I also know how to live in prosperity. I have been initiated into the secret for all sorts and conditions of life, for plenty and for hunger, for prosperity and for privations; in Him who strengthens me, I am able for anything.

EVENING

Sing praise to the Eternal, ye devout,
give thanks, as you recall his sacred name.

As patiently I waited for the Eternal,
he turned and listened to my cry.

Be firm and brave, never be daunted or dismayed, for the Eternal your God is with you wherever you go.

Thy judgments bring men light,
till very pagans learn the right.
And so my heart and soul rejoice,
my body rests secure;
for never wilt thou let me sink to death,
nor leave thy loyal one to the grave;
thou wilt reveal the path to life,
to the full joy of thy presence,
to the bliss of being close to thee for ever.

Thou didst change my mourning into dancing,
stripping my sackcloth, girdling me with joy,
that my soul might sing thy praises without ceasing,
that I might thank thee, O my God, for ever.

MORNING

Man is not to live on bread alone,
but on every word that issues from the mouth of God.

Said I to myself, "Come, try pleasure and enjoy yourself." I searched my mind how to pamper my body. I went in for great works, I built mansions, planted vineyards, laid out gardens and parks. I amassed silver and gold. I secured singers, both men and women, and many a mistress, man's delight. Richer and richer I grew. Nothing I coveted did I refuse myself. But when I turned to look at all I had achieved and at my toil and trouble, then it was all vain and futile. Nothing in this world is worth while.

You crave, and miss what you want: you covet, but you cannot acquire: you miss what you want because you do not ask God for it; you do ask and you do not get it, because you ask with the wicked intention of spending it on your pleasures.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for goodness!
they will be satisfied.

EVENING

Kind and upright is the Eternal,
guiding humble souls aright.

Wisdom, when you walk, will guide you,
when you rest, she will take care of you,
when you wake up she will talk to you—
[Her] bidding will throw light upon your life,
[Her] direction will enlighten you,
and to be trained thus is the way to live.

And when you swerve to right or left,
you hear a Voice behind you whispering,
"This is the way, walk here."

That voice borne from heaven we heard, and thus we have gained fresh confirmation of the prophetic word. Pray attend to that word; it shines like a lamp within a darksome spot, till the Day dawns and the daystar rises within your hearts.

As for prophesying, it will be superseded; as for "tongues," they will cease; as for knowledge, it will be superseded. For we only know bit by bit, and we only prophesy bit by bit; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will be superseded.

MORNING

But I sing of thy strength,
a morning song to thy love.

Leave it all quietly to God, my soul,
my rescue comes from him alone;
rock, rescue, refuge, he is all to me,
never shall I be overthrown.

He turns a desert into pools of water,
and dry land into fountains,
where he settles famished folk,
to build a town for habitation,
sowing fields and planting vineyards,
gathering in their harvest;
by his blessing they increase.

When I was prospering, I thought
I never would be shaken;
but when thy favour was withdrawn,
I fell into dismay.
If wealth increases,
set not your heart upon it.

That power belongs to God,
and kindness, Lord, to thee.

EVENING

Come to me, all ye labouring and burdened, and I will refresh you.

"Ungodly men are like the restless sea,
that never can be still,
whose waters throw up dirt and mire;
no prosperous peace for the ungodly," says my God.

The doubtful man is like surge of the sea whirled and swayed by the wind.

Never let yourselves be carried away with a variety of novel doctrines; for the right thing is to have one's heart strengthened by grace.

Jesus Christ is always the same, yesterday, to-day, and for ever.

In his own flesh he put an end to the feud of the Law with its code of commands, so as to make peace by the creation of a new Man in himself by reconciling to God through the cross; he came with a gospel of peace, for it is through him that we enjoy our access to the Father in one Spirit.

MORNING

Pray that you may not slip into temptation.

Now the feast of unleavened bread (which is called the passover) was near. The high priests and scribes were trying how to get him put to death . . . and Satan entered Judas called Iscariot, a member of the twelve, who went off to discuss with the high priests and commanders how he could betray him to them.

Let no one who is tried by temptation say, "My temptation comes from God"; God is incapable of being tempted by evil and he tempts no one. Everyone is tempted as he is beguiled and allured by his own desire; then Desire conceives and breeds Sin, while Sin matures and gives birth to Death.

For forty days he was led by the Spirit in the desert, while the devil tempted him.

And after exhausting every kind of temptation the devil left him till a fit opportunity arrived.

For ours is no high priest who is incapable of sympathizing with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every respect like ourselves, yet without sinning. So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in the hour of need.

No temptation has waylaid you that is beyond man's power; trust God, he will never let you be tempted beyond what you can stand.

EVENING

Scarlet your sins may be,
but they can become white as snow.

I put your sins out of my mind;
I have redeemed you; oh, return to me!

For God loved the world so dearly that he gave up his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life, instead of perishing. God did not send his Son into the world to pass sentence on it, but to save the world by him. He who believes in him is not sentenced.

So you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Sin is not to reign, then, over your mortal bodies and make you obey their passions; you must not let sin have your members for the service of vice, you must dedicate yourselves to God as men who have been brought from death to life, dedicating your members to God or the service of righteousness. Sin must have no hold over you, for you live under grace.

MORNING

Christ Jesus, whom God has made our "Wisdom."

He came upon the place where it was written,
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me:
for he has consecrated me to preach the gospel to the poor,
he has sent me to proclaim release for captives.
And he proceeded to tell them that "To-day, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

And people were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them like an authority, not like the scribes.

Come to him then—come to that living Stone which men have rejected and God holds choice and precious, come and, like living stones yourselves, be built into a spiritual house, to form a consecrated priesthood for the offering of those spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

As for the unbelieving:
the very stone the builders rejected
is now the corner stone,
a stone over which men stumble and a rock of offence; they stumble over it in their disobedience to God's word.

The interpretation of thy words enlightens and instructs the open-minded;
Happy are they who live uprightly, living by the Eternal's law!
Happy are they who follow his injunctions, giving him undivided hearts.

EVENING

Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in the hour of need.

The full sweep of the divine wisdom is disclosed now in terms of the eternal purpose which he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, through whom, as we have faith in him, we enjoy our confidence of free access.

We know, we have believed, the love God has for us. God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. Love is complete with us when we have absolute confidence about the day of judgment, since in this world we are living as He lives.

We know that the Son of God has come, and has given us insight to know Him who is the Real God; and we are in Him who is real, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the real God, this is life eternal.

The confidence we have in him is this, that he listens to us whenever we ask anything in accordance with his will; and if we know he listens to whatever we ask, we know we obtain the requests we have made to him.

MORNING

For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.

No sound tree bears rotten fruit,
nor again does a rotten tree bear sound fruit:
The good man produces good from the good stored in his heart,
and the evil man evil from his evil:
for a man's mouth utters what his heart is full of.

Like a golden apple laid on silver network;
a golden earring, a necklace of rare gold—
an apt word is like that.

An angry man is pacified by forbearance,
and gentle words abate his ire.

Lay aside falsehood, then, let each tell his neighbour the truth, for we are members one of another.

Let no bad word pass your lips, but only such speech as is good for edification, as occasion may require, words that are gracious and a means of grace to those who hear them.

Let your talk always have a saving salt of grace about it.

EVENING

Rejoice in the Lord always; I will say it again, "Rejoice."

Bless the Eternal, O my soul,
remember all his benefits.

Better a single day within thy courts
than a thousand days outside!
I would rather sit at the threshold of God's house
than live inside the tents of worldly men.
For God the Eternal is a sun and shield,
favour and honour he bestows;
he never denies bliss to the upright.

Let the skies be glad, let earth rejoice,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it holds exult,
let all trees of the forest sing for joy
at the Eternal's presence—for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth,
to rule the world with justice
and the nations faithfully.

Filled with the Spirit, praise the Lord heartily, render thanks to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ at all times and for all things.

MORNING

Blessed are those who feel poor in spirit!
the Realm of Heaven is theirs.

Has not God chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and to inherit the realm which he has promised to those who love him?

For the "foolishness" of God is wiser than men,
and the "weakness" of God is stronger than men.

Why, look at your own ranks, my brothers; not many wise men (that is, judged by human standards), not many leading men, not many of good birth, have been called! No,

God has chosen what is foolish in the world
to shame the wise;
God has chosen what is weak in the world
to shame what is strong;
God has chosen what is mean and despised in the world—
things which are not, to put down things that are;

that no person may boast in the sight of God. This is the God to whom you owe your being in Christ Jesus, whom God has made our "Wisdom," that is, our righteousness and consecration and redemption; so that, as it is written, let him who boasts boast of the Lord.

Keep in harmony with one another; instead of being ambitious, associate with humble folk; never be self-conceited.

EVENING

God has chosen you to be reaped for salvation, by the consecration of your spirit and by faith in the Truth.

Dead in trespasses as we were, God was so rich in mercy that for his great love to us he made us live together with Christ (it is by grace you have been saved); together with Christ he raised and seated us within the heavenly sphere in Christ Jesus, to display throughout ages to come his surpassing wealth of grace and goodness toward us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, as you had faith; it is not your doing but God's gift.

Some other seeds fell on good soil and bore a crop.

As for him who is sown "on good soil," that is the man who hears the word and understands it; he bears fruit, producing now a hundredfold, now sixty, and now thirtyfold.

Stand firm and hold to the rules which you have learned. And may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope, graciously encourage your hearts and strengthen them for all good in deed and word.

MORNING

Steady patience is what you need.

Oh, for the wings of a dove
to fly afar and be at rest!
Fain would I fly from it all.

He will be saved who holds out to the very end.

A scholar is not above his teacher,
nor a servant above his lord;
enough for the scholar to fare like his teacher,
and the servant like his lord.
If men have called the master of the house Beelzebul,
how much more will they miscall his servants!

Compare him who steadily endured all that hostility from sinful men, so as to keep your own hearts from fainting and failing.

I was given a thorn in the flesh. Three times over I prayed the Lord to make it leave me, but he told me, "It is enough for you to have my grace: it is in weakness that [my] power is fully felt." So I am proud to boast of all my weakness, and thus to have the power of Christ resting on my life. I am strong just when I am weak.

Love is always patient.

EVENING

Happy the man who takes shelter with him!

The Eternal is my allotted share, I say;
therefore I will hope in him.
The Eternal is good to those who wait for him,
to a soul that seeks him.

Never will he let you slip; he who guards you never sleeps.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who in Christ has blessed us with every spiritual blessing within the heavenly sphere! In him we enjoy our redemption, the forgiveness of our trespasses. So richly has God lavished upon us his grace, granting us complete insight and understanding of the open secret of his will, showing us how it was the purpose of his design so to order it in the fullness of the ages that all things in heaven and earth alike should be gathered up in Christ.

My God will supply all your own needs from his wealth in Glory in Christ Jesus.

MORNING

It is by what he does that a man is justified, not simply by what he believes.

For as the body without the breath of life is dead,
so faith is dead without deeds.
Whoever, then, knows what is right to do and does not do it, that is a sin for him.

It is not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord!" who will get into the Realm of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven.

Then the just will answer,
"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you? or thirsty and gave you drink?
when did we see you a stranger and entertain you? or unclothed and clothed you?
when did we see you ill or in prison and visit you?"
The King will answer them, "I tell you truly, in so far as you did it to one of these my brothers, even to the least of them, you did it to me."

You are the light of the world. A town on the top of a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp to put it under a bowl; they put it on a stand, and it shines for all in the house. So your light is to shine before men.

EVENING

For ours is no high priest who cannot have sympathy with our weaknesses.

Jesus, exhausted by the journey, sat down at the spring, just as he was. It was about noon, and a Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

When Jesus saw her wailing and saw the Jews who accompanied her wailing, he chafed in spirit and was disquieted.

He asked them, "Is it right to help or to hurt on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?"—glancing round him in anger and vexation at their obstinacy.

Jesus burst into tears.

My soul is now disquieted. What am I to say? "Father, save me from this hour"? Nay, it is something else that has brought me to this hour: I will say, "Father, glorify thy name."

For forty days he was led by the Spirit in the desert, while the devil tempted him. During these days he ate nothing, and when they were over he felt hungry.

[He] has been tempted in every respect like ourselves, yet without sinning. So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in the hour of need.

MORNING

If anyone serves me, let him follow me,
and where I am, there shall my servant also be:
if anyone serves me,
my Father will honour him.

In my Father's house there are many abodes; were it not so, would I have told you I was going to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, so that you may be where I am.

He shall wipe every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more—
no more wailing, no more crying, no more pain,
for the former things have passed away.

Do you not know you are servants of the master you obey, of the master to whom you yield yourselves obedient, whether it is Sin, whose service ends in death, or Obedience, whose service ends in righteousness?

Store up treasures for yourselves in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust corrode,
where thieves do not break in and steal.
For where your treasure lies,
your heart will lie there too.

EVENING

Born to an unscathed, inviolate, unfading inheritance; it is kept in heaven for you.

We have no lasting city here below, we seek the city to come.

In my Father's house there are many abodes; were it not so, would I have told you I was going to prepare a place for you?

I know that if this earthly tent of mine is taken down, I get a home from God, made by no human hands, eternal in the heavens.

Hence I never lose heart; though my outward man decays, my inner man is renewed day after day. The slight trouble of the passing hour results in a solid glory past all comparison, for those of us whose eyes are on the unseen, not on the seen; for the seen is transient, the unseen eternal.

After that I looked, and there was a great host whom no one could count, from every nation and tribe and people and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clad in white robes, with palm-branches in their hands; and they cried with a loud voice, "Saved by our God who is seated on the throne, and by the Lamb!"

MORNING

With full power to endure and to be patient cheerfully.

Are we to take good from God's hand, and not evil too?

Have you forgotten the word of appeal that reasons with you as sons?—
My son, never make light of the Lord's discipline,
never faint under his reproofs;
for the Lord disciplines the man he loves,
and scourges every son whom he receives.

Be steadfast in trouble.

Bless those who make a practice of persecuting you; bless them instead of cursing them.

Blessed is he who endures under trial; for when he has stood the test, he will gain the crown of life which is promised to all who love Him.

Content, for Christ's sake, with weakness, insults, trouble, persecution, and calamity; for I am strong just when I am weak.

Present suffering, I hold, is a mere nothing compared to the glory that we are to have revealed.

In me you may have peace; in the world you have trouble, but courage!—I have conquered the world.

EVENING

God has chosen what is foolish in the world
to shame the wise;
God has chosen what is weak in the world
to shame what is strong.

Moses said to the Eternal, "But, Lord, I am no speaker." The Eternal said to him, "Go then, I will be with your mouth and teach you what to say."

A word from the Eternal was rare in those days. But one day, when the lamp of God was still burning, and Samuel was lying in the temple of the Eternal beside the ark of God, then the Eternal called, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then I said,
"Ah, but, O Lord Eternal, I cannot speak,
I am too young!"
But the Eternal said to me, "Say not, you are too young. I have put my words into your mouth."

They were astonished to notice how outspoken Peter and John were, and to discover that they were uncultured persons and mere outsiders; they recognized them as having been companions of Jesus.

"Not by fighting, not by force, but by my spirit!"
so the Lord of hosts declares.

MORNING

In him life lay,
and this life was the Light for men.

Arise, be glad, your light is dawning,
the Eternal's splendour rises upon you.
Though darkness covers all the earth,
and a black cloud shrouds the nations,
yet the Eternal shines out upon you,
his splendour on you gleams.

For while once upon a time you were darkness, now in the Lord you are light; lead the life of those who are children of the light (for the fruit of light consists in all that is good and right and true).

This is the sentence of condemnation, that the Light has entered the world and yet men have preferred darkness to light. It is because their actions have been evil; for anyone whose practices are corrupt loathes the light and will not come out into it, in case his actions are exposed, whereas anyone whose life is true comes out into the light, to make it plain that his actions have been divinely prompted.

You are the elect race, the royal priesthood, the consecrated nation, the People who belong to Him, that you may proclaim the wondrous deeds of Him, who has called you from darkness to his wonderful light.

EVENING

Though mountains be removed,
and hills be shaken,
never shall my love leave you.

Eternal One, thy love is high as heaven,
thy loyalty soars to the very skies,
thy justice is like mighty mountains.

How precious is thy love, O God!
To thee men come for shelter
in the shadow of thy wings;
life's own fountain is within thy presence,
and in thy smile we have the light of life.

We shall find him very near;
therefore we never fear,
though earth be overset.

Thou art what I obtain from life, O thou Eternal,
thou thyself art my share.

MORNING

It is the will of God that by your honest lives you should silence the ignorant charges of foolish persons.

Live like free men, only never make your freedom a pretext for misconduct; live like servants of God.

I want to take precautions against any risk of suspicion, I aim at being above reproach not only from God but also from men.

See that the exercise of your right does not prove any stumbling-block to the weak.

By sinning in this way against the brotherhood and wounding their weaker consciences, you are sinning against Christ.

Bear yourselves uprightly before pagans; so that, for all their slander of you as bad characters, they may come to glorify God when you are put upon your trial, by what they see of your good conduct.

You are the light of the world. A town on the top of a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp to put it under a bowl; they put it on a stand, and it shines for all in the house. So your light is to shine before men, that they may see the good you do and glorify your Father in heaven.

EVENING

Jesus Christ, has put down death and brought life and immortality to light by the gospel.

First and foremost, I passed on to you what I had myself received, namely, that Christ died for our sins as the scriptures had said, that he was buried, that he rose on the third day as the scriptures had said, and that he was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve; after that, he was seen by over five hundred brothers all at once; after that, he was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

For since death came by man,
by man came also resurrection from the dead;
as all die in Adam,
so shall all be made alive in Christ.

Death is swallowed up in victory.
O Death, where is your victory?
O Death, where is your sting?
The victory is ours, thank God! He makes it ours by our Lord Jesus Christ.

He shall strip away
the mourning shroud from all mankind,
the veil of sorrow from all nations,
displacing death for evermore.
So shall he wipe the tears from every face.

MORNING

Learn the meaning of this word, I care for mercy not for sacrifice.

O man, he has told you what is good;
what does the Eternal ask from you
but to be just and kind
and live in quiet fellowship with your God?

To love him with the whole heart, with the whole understanding, and with the whole strength, and to love one's neighbour as oneself—that is far more than all holocausts and sacrifices.

I may speak with the tongues of men and of angels,
but if I have no love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal;
I may prophesy, fathom all mysteries and secret lore,
I may have such absolute faith that I can move hills from their place,
but if I have no love,
I count for nothing;
I may distribute all I possess in charity,
I may give up my body to be burnt,
but if I have no love,
I make nothing of it.

Be in debt to no man—apart from the debt of love one to another. He who loves his fellow-man has fulfilled the law.

EVENING

Fear not, you little flock, for your Father's delight is to give you the Realm.

"The Realm of heaven," he said, "is like a grain of mustard-seed, which a man takes and sows in his field. It is less than any seed on earth, but when it grows up it is larger than any plant, it becomes a tree, so large that wild birds come and roost in the branches of it."

He spent the whole night in prayer to God, and when day broke he summoned his disciples, choosing twelve of them, to whom he gave the name of "apostles."

And they were all filled with the holy Spirit.

Peter stood up along with the eleven, and raising his voice he addressed them:

"Repent, let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins."

Those who accepted what he said were baptized; about three thousand souls were brought in, that day.

After that I looked, and there was a great host whom no one could count, from every nation and tribe and people and tongue.

Go and make disciples of all nations, and teach them to obey all the commands I have laid on you. And I will be with you all the time, to the very end of the world.

MORNING

We who are strong ought to bear the burdens that the weak make for themselves and us.

We are not to please ourselves; each of us must please his neighbour, doing him good by building up his faith. Christ certainly did not please himself, but, as it is written, The reproaches of those who denounced Thee have fallen upon me.

Even if anyone be detected in some trespass, my brothers, you are spiritual, you must set the offender right in a spirit of gentleness, each of you looking to himself, in case he too is tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

My brothers, if anyone of you goes astray from the truth and someone brings him back, understand that he who brings a sinner back from the error of his way saves the man's soul from death and hides a host of his own sins.

Peace, then, and the building up of each other, these are what we should aim at.

The right course is to abstain from anything that your brother feels to be a stumbling-block.

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men and in particular to the household of the faith.

EVENING

The Eternal is supreme, he dwells on high.

"Do not call out 'Danger!'
  when this people calls out 'Danger!'
Have no fear of what they fear,
  never dread it.
The danger lies with the Lord of hosts;
  'tis he whom you should fear,
  'tis he whom you should dread!"

Who ever moved the mind of the Eternal,
  or gave him lessons and advice?
Why, the nations are a mere drop in the bucket,
  no more to him than dust upon a balance!

For over the whole world God is King!
God reigns over the nations.

If God is for us, who can be against us? The God who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, surely He will give us everything besides!

MORNING

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

O thou Eternal, our own God,
  others have been ruling us;
but thine authority alone
  to-day we own.
These lords are dead and gone
  ghosts that return no more;
thou hast demolished them,
  making their memory fade.

Consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is in Christ that you reach your full life, you were buried with him in your baptism and thereby raised with him as you believed in the power of the God who raised him from the dead. For though you were dead in your trespasses, He made you live with Christ, He forgave us all our trespasses, triumphing over them in the cross.

O thou Eternal, thy dead shall live again,
  awakening from the dust
  with songs of joy
for thy dew falls with light and life,
  till dead spirits arise.

EVENING

Your beauty was perfect, through the splendour of my endowment—says the Lord the Eternal.

I am a creature of the flesh, in the thraldom of sin. I do not act as I desire to act; on the contrary, I do what I detest. I desire to do what is right, but wrong is all that I can manage.

You were once like that but you washed yourselves clean, you were consecrated, you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

For the Eternal delights in his people,
  adorning the afflicted with a victory.

You are consecrated that you may proclaim the wondrous deeds of Him who has called you from darkness to his wonderful light—you who once were no people and now are God's people.

Keep in mind whatever is true, whatever is worthy, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is attractive, whatever is high-toned, all excellence, all merit, practise also what you have learned and received. So shall the God of peace be with you.

MORNING

The spirit is eager but the flesh is weak.

Simon, Simon, Satan has claimed the right to sift you all like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail. And you in turn must be a strength to your brothers.

You were called to be free; only, do not make your freedom an opening for the flesh, but serve one another in love. For the entire Law is summed up in one word, in You must love your neighbour as yourself. Lead the life of the Spirit; then you will never satisfy the passions of the flesh. For the passion of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the passion of the Spirit against the flesh—the two are at issue.

For it is by grace you have been saved, as you had faith it is not your doing but God's gift, not the outcome of what you have done—lest anyone should pride himself on that; God has made us what we are, creating us in Christ Jesus for the good deeds which are prepared beforehand by God as our sphere of action.

In him who strengthens me I am able for anything.

EVENING

Never will I reject one of them.

The Pharisees and their scribes complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with taxgatherers and sinners?" Jesus replied to them,

"Healthy people have no need of a doctor, but those who are ill:
I have not come to call just men but sinners to repentance."

Now there was a woman in the town who was a sinner, and when she found out that Jesus was at table in the house of the Pharisee, she brought an alabaster flask of perfume and stood behind him at his feet in tears; as her tears began to wet his feet, she wiped them with the hair of her head, pressed kisses on them, and anointed them with the perfume.

Zacchæus, the head of taxgatherers, was small of stature. He ran forward and climbed into a sycamore tree to get a sight of him, as he was to pass that way. But when Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchæus, come down at once, for I must stay at your house to-day."

One of the criminals who had been hanged [said], "Jesus, do not forget me when you come to reign." "I tell you truly," said Jesus, "you will be in paradise with me this very day."

Everyone who invokes the name of the Lord shall be saved.

MORNING

For none of us lives to himself,
and none of us dies to himself.

My son, if scoundrels would lead you astray,
never agree to it;
if they say, "Come along, let us trap honest folk,
Cast in your lot with us,
we will have all one purse"—
my son, never join them.

You must never repeat a baseless rumour; never side with a bad man, to give malicious evidence. You must not follow a majority to do wrong, nor must you bear witness in court so as to side with an unjust majority; neither must you be partial to a poor man's plea.

See that the exercise of your right does not prove any stumbling-block to the weak.

Let us have no vanity, no provoking, no envy of one another. Even if anyone be detected in some trespass, you must set the offender right in a spirit of gentleness, each of you looking to himself, in case he too is tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Well then, whatever you would like men to do to you, do just the same to them; that is the meaning of the Law and the prophets.

EVENING

Make me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new, steadfast spirit in me.

Who may ascend the Eternal's hill?
Who may stand within his sacred shrine?
He only who has clean hands and a heart unstained,
who never sets his mind on what is false,
who never breaks his word.

'Tis inward truth that thou desirest.

Who is qualified for this career?

He has qualified me.

For God who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," has shone within my heart to illuminate men with the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Christ.

If for all your evil you know to give your children what is good,
how much more will your Father give the holy Spirit from heaven to those who ask him?

Gladden me with thy saving aid again,
and give me a willing spirit as my strength.

MORNING

You are my friends—if you do what I command you.

It is not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord!" who will get into the Realm of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven.

My mother and brothers are those who listen to the word of God and obey it.

If we say, "We have fellowship with him," when we live and move in darkness, then we are lying, we are not practising the truth; but if we live and move within the light, as he is within the light, then we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from every sin.

For sanctifier and sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying,

"I will proclaim thy name to my brothers,
in the midst of the church I will sing of thee."

Blessed are those who hear and who observe the word of God!

EVENING

I will be like dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like a lily,
and strike roots down like a poplar.

As rain and snow from heaven fall not in vain,
but water earth until it yields
seed for the sower, food for hungry men,
so with the promise that has passed my lips:
it falls not fruitless and in vain,
but works out what I will,
and carries out my purpose.

Then shall it be that I pour out my spirit on all;
your sons and daughters shall be inspired,
your old men shall dream dreams,
your young men shall see visions.

The Lord of hosts declares, I will sow peace and prosperity, the vine shall bear fruit, the ground shall yield its produce, and the skies drop dew—blessings that I will make lasting for my people. I will rescue you, and you shall be an example of "blessing."

Look how the lilies of the field grow;
they neither toil nor spin,
and yet, I tell you, even Solomon in all his grandeur was never robed like one of them.

MORNING

Let no one deceive you, dear children: he who practises righteousness is just, as He is just.

The good man produces good from the good stored in his heart,
and the evil man evil from his evil:
for a man's mouth utters what his heart is full of.
Why call me, "Lord, Lord!" and obey me not?

So clear away all the foul rank growth of malice, and make a soil of humble modesty for the Word which roots itself inwardly with power to save your souls. Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it.

Who among you is wise. Let him show by his good conduct. But if you are cherishing bitter jealousy and rivalry in your hearts, it is an earthly wisdom, unspiritual, devilish. The wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, forbearing, conciliatory, full of mercy and wholesome fruit, unambiguous, straightforward; and the peacemakers who sow in peace reap righteousness.

EVENING

Christ himself died for sins, once for all, a just man for unjust men, that he might bring us near to God; in the flesh he was put to death but he came to life in the Spirit.

I count anything a loss, compared to the supreme value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have lost everything (I count it all the veriest refuse) in order to gain Christ and be found at death in him.

I would know him in the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, with my nature transformed to die as he died, to see if I too can attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained this or am already perfect, but I press forward to appropriate it, because I have been appropriated myself by Christ Jesus. I for one do not consider myself to have appropriated this; my one thought is, by forgetting what lies behind me and straining to what lies before me, to press on to the goal for the prize of God's high call in Christ Jesus.

We are children of God now, beloved; what we are to be is not apparent yet, but we do know that when he appears we are to be like him—for we are to see him as he is.

And everyone who rests this hope on him, purifies himself as he is pure.

MORNING

How shall we escape the penalty of neglecting a salvation which was originally proclaimed by the Lord himself and guaranteed to us by those who heard him.

The men of Ninive will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it;
for when Jonah preached they did repent,
and here is One greater than Jonah.
The queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it;
for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon,
and here is One greater than Solomon.

What I preached, did not rest on any plausible arguments of "wisdom" but on the proof supplied by the Spirit and its power, so that your faith might not rest on any human "wisdom" but on the power of God.

For it was in him that the divine Fullness willed to settle without limit, and by him to reconcile in his own person all on earth and all in heaven alike, in a peace made by the blood of his cross.

EVENING

His faith won strength as he gave glory to God and felt convinced that He was able to do what He had promised.

Apart from faith it is impossible to satisfy him, for the man who draws near to God must believe that he exists and that he does reward those who seek him.

Lord, Give us more faith!

Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God! I tell you truly, whoever says to this hill, 'Take and throw yourself into the sea,' and has not a doubt in his mind but believes that what he says will happen, he will have it done. So I tell you, whatever you pray for and ask, believe you have got it, and you shall have it."

His faith was "counted to him as righteousness." And these words "counted to him" have not been written for him alone but for our sakes as well; faith will be counted to us as we believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, Jesus who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised that we might be justified.

I admit thou canst do anything,
that nothing is too hard for thee.

MORNING

Make no mistake—God is not to be mocked—a man will reap just what he sows.

Mark this: he who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows generously will reap a generous harvest.

One gives away, and still he grows the richer:
another keeps what he should give, and is the poorer.
A liberal soul will be enriched,
and he who waters will himself be watered.

He who furnishes the sower with seed and with bread to eat will supply seed for you and multiply it; he will increase the crop of your charities.

He who sows for his flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, and he who sows for the Spirit will reap life eternal from the Spirit.

They sow the wind and reap the storm.

Sow justice for yourselves,
and reap a harvest of God's love.

Never let us grow tired of doing what is right, for if we do not faint we shall reap our harvest at the opportune season.

EVENING

The Father has qualified us to share the lot of the saints in the Light, rescuing us from the power of the Darkness and transferring us to the realm of his beloved Son!

Truly, truly I tell you, he who listens to my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he will incur no sentence of judgment, he has already passed from death across to life.

We know we have crossed from death to life, because we love the brotherhood; he who has no love [for his brother] remains in death. We know what love is by this, that He laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for the brotherhood.

Thus it is that we may be sure we belong to the truth and reassure ourselves whenever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart, and he knows all. If our heart does not condemn us, beloved, then we have confidence in approaching God, and we get from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. Now this is what he commands, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another as he has commanded us to do.

It is God who consecrated me, who stamped me with his seal and gave me the Spirit as a pledge in my heart.

MORNING

Ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and insight, so that you may lead a life that is worthy of the Lord.

For my plans are not like your plans,
nor your ways like my ways—
so the Eternal One declares;
nay, as heaven is higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my plans than your plans.

What a fathomless wealth lies in the wisdom and knowledge of God!
Who ever understood the thoughts of the Lord?
Who has ever been his counsellor?
All comes from him, all lives by him, all ends in him. Glory to him for ever, Amen!

Nobody has ever seen God, but God has been unfolded by the divine One, the only Son, who lies upon the Father's breast.

For it was in him that the divine Fullness willed to settle without limit, and by him to reconcile in his own person all on earth and all in heaven alike, in a peace made by the blood of his cross.

Eternal One, my God, richly hast thou worked out
thy wondrous purposes for us;
there is no one like thee!

EVENING

Nobody has ever seen God, but God has been unfolded by the divine One, the only Son, who lies upon the Father's breast.

In him life lay,
and this life was the Light for men:
amid the darkness the Light shone,
but the darkness did not master it.

The Logos became flesh and tarried among us; we have seen his glory—glory such as an only son enjoys from his father—seen it to be full of grace and reality.

He has spoken to us by a Son—a Son whom he has appointed heir of the universe, as it was by him that he created the world. He, reflecting God's bright glory, [is] stamped with God's own character.

In Christ the entire Fullness of deity has settled bodily, it is in him that you reach your full life.

We know also that those who love God, those who have been called in terms of his purpose, have his aid and interest in everything. For he decreed of old that those whom he predestined should share the likeness of his Son—that he might be the first-born of a great brotherhood.

MORNING

Let us hold the hope we avow without wavering (for we can rely on him who gave us the Promise).

For we are the temple of the living God.

Pray Him out of the wealth of his glory to grant you a mighty increase of strength by his Spirit in the inner man. Be fixed and founded in the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge!

If you are denounced for the sake of Christ, you are blessed; for then the Spirit of glory and power, the Spirit of God himself, is resting on you.

Never let us grow tired of doing what is right, for if we do not faint we shall reap our harvest at the opportune season.

He will guarantee that you are vindicated on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is the God who called you to participate in his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

EVENING

I will instruct you in the good and right path.

Enter by the narrow gate:
for the gate is broad and the road is wide that leads to destruction,
and many enter that way.
But the road that leads to life is both narrow and close,
and there are few who find it.

He who goes wrong must take the consequences.

Thou holdest my right hand,
guiding me with thy counsel,
leading me after thyself by the hand.

A stainless highroad shall appear,
its name "The Sacred Way";
no soul unclean shall tread it,
no impious foot stray over it;
no lions shall ever haunt it,
no wild beast leap on it;
but on it the redeemed shall walk,
those whom the Eternal has set free.

MORNING

The church in your house.

Where two or three have gathered in my name, I am among them.

Two are better than one; for if one falls the other can raise his fellow.

No servant can serve two masters:
you cannot serve God and Mammon.

As for me and my house, we will serve the Eternal.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right; Honour your father and mother. As for you fathers, never exasperate your children, but bring them up in the discipline and on the admonitions of the Lord.

Do not vex God's holy Spirit, by whom you have been sealed for the day of redemption; drop all bitter feeling and passion and anger; be kind to each other, be tender-hearted, be generous to each other as God has been generous to you in Christ. Lead lives of love, just as Christ loved you and gave himself up for you.

EVENING

The earth belongs to the Eternal, and all earth holds,
the world and its inhabitants.

God formed man in his own likeness, in the likeness of God he formed him, male and female he formed both. And God blessed them; God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, mastering the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, and every living creature that crawls on earth." God also said, "See, I give you every plant that bears seed all over the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; be that your food. To every wild beast on earth, to every bird of the air, and to every living creature that crawls on earth, I give all the green growth for food." And so it was. God saw all that he had made, and very good it was.

Anything God has created is good and nothing is to be tabooed.

The world is full of thy creatures, all looking to thee
for their food in season due;
what thou givest, that they gather,
feasting from thine open hand.

Eat with thanksgiving, for then it is consecrated by God's word, by the prayer uttered over it.

My God will supply all your own needs from his wealth in Glory in Christ Jesus.

MORNING

Bless the Eternal, O my soul,
remember all his benefits.

One of them turned back when he saw he had been cured, glorifying God. Jesus said, "Were all the ten not cleansed? Where are the other nine?"

Blessed be the Eternal, who has listened to my voice of pleading!
The Eternal is my strength and shield, my heart has faith in him.

He pardons all your sins,
and all your sicknesses he heals,
he saves your life from death,
he crowns you with his love and pity,
he gives you all your heart's desire,
renewing your youth like an eagle's.

Let them thank the Eternal for his kindness,
and for the wonders that he does for men;
let them offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and joyfully recount what he has done.

EVENING

In him we enjoy our redemption.

O sing a new song to the Eternal,
for marvels he has done,
his right hand has won victory
by his majestic power.

Christ ransomed us from the curse of the Law by becoming accursed for us (for it is written, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a gibbet).

He was ill-treated, yet he bore it humbly,
he never would complain.
They did away with him unjustly;
and who heeded how he fell,
torn from the land of the living,
struck down for sins of ours?
Therefore shall he win victory,
he shall succeed triumphantly,
since he has shed his life-blood,
and let himself be numbered among rebels,
bearing the great world's sins,
and interposing for rebellious men.

As Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, let this very conviction that he who has suffered in the flesh gets quit of sin, nerve you to spend the rest of your time in the flesh for the will of God.

MORNING

I am he who comforts you;
how can you ever be afraid of mortal men?

There is a God able to save us, the God whom we serve. We will not serve your gods, and we will not bow down before the golden image which you have erected.

Be strong, be brave, fear not, be not terrified of them; for it is the Eternal your God who goes with you, he will never fail you nor forsake you.

When a man's life pleases the Eternal,
he gives him a sure footing;
he may fall, but he never falls down,
for the Eternal holds him by the hand.

I sing of thy strength,
a morning song to thy love;
for thou art a fortress to me,
a refuge in my day of danger.
O thou my Strength, to thee I sing,
for thou, Eternal, art my fortress.

EVENING

For the Eternal is gracious and pitiful.

As an eagle stirs its nestlings,
fluttering over its brood,
spreading its wings to catch them,
carrying them on its pinions,
so the Eternal was their leader.
Like a bird fluttering above its nest,
shall the Eternal ward Jerusalem.

As a father pities his children,
so the Eternal pities his worshippers;
he knows what we are made of,
he remembers we are dust.
He treats us not according to our sins,
he deals not with us as our guilt deserves;
but, high as heaven is over earth,
so vast his love is to his worshippers;
as far as east from the west,
so far he puts our sins away from us.

The Eternal's love is lasting,
and will never fail.

MORNING

We have been born anew.

We were once senseless, disobedient, astray, enslaved to all manner of passions and pleasures; we spent our days in malice and envy, we were hateful, and we hated one another. But "the goodness and affection of God our Saviour appeared; and he saved us, not for any good deeds we had done but from his own pity for us, by renewal under the holy Spirit."

Do not vex God's holy Spirit, by whom you have been sealed for the day of redemption; drop all bitter feeling and passion and anger and clamouring and insults, together with all malice; be kind to each other, be tender-hearted, be generous to each other as God has been generous to you in Christ. Copy God, then, as his beloved children.

On those who have accepted him, he has conferred the right of being children of God, that is, on those who believe in his Name, who owe this birth of theirs to God, not to human blood, nor to any impulse of the flesh or of man.

The sons of God are those who are guided by the Spirit of God. We are children of God; and if children, heirs as well, heirs of God, heirs along with Christ.

EVENING

For there is one Body and one Spirit—as you were called for the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over us all, who pervades us all, who is within us all.

He came with a gospel of peace for those far away (that is, for you) and for those who were near, for it is through him that we both enjoy our access to the Father in one Spirit. Thus you are strangers and foreigners no longer, you share the membership of the saints, you belong to God's own household, you are a building that rests on the apostles and prophets as its foundation, with Christ Jesus as the corner-stone; in him the whole structure is welded together and rises into a sacred temple in the Lord, and in him you are yourselves built into this to form a habitation for God in the Spirit.

It is in him that you reach your full life.

Let the inspiration of Christ dwell in your midst with all its wealth of wisdom; teach and train one another with the music of psalms, with hymns, and songs of the spiritual life; praise God with thankful hearts. Indeed, whatever you say or do, let everything be done in dependence on the Lord Jesus, giving thanks in his name to God the Father.

MORNING

Beloved, do not imitate evil but good; he who does good belongs to God, he who does evil has never seen God.

Love not the world, nor yet what is in the world; if anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the proud glory of life, belongs not to the Father but to the world; and the world is passing away with its desire, while he who does the will of God remains for ever.

I pray not that thou wilt take them out of the world, but that thou wilt keep them from the evil One. Consecrate them by the truth: thy word is truth.

He who loves his life loses it, and he who cares not for his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

If anyone serves me, let him follow me,
if anyone serves me,
my Father will honour him.

Instead of moulding yourselves to passions that once ruled the days of your ignorance; as He who called you is holy, so you must be holy too in all your conduct—for it is written, You shall be holy because I am holy. And as you call upon a Father who judges everyone impartially by what he has done, be reverent in your conduct while you sojourn here below.

EVENING

I made him a witness to the world,
the leader and commander of the nations.

When Christ suffered for you, he left you an example, and you must be following his footsteps.

You were indeed astray like sheep, but you have come back now to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

He decreed of old that those whom he predestined should share the likeness of his Son—that he might be the firstborn of a great brotherhood.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain within my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain within my love just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain within his love.

This is my command: you are to love one another as I have loved you.

We must strip off every handicap, to run our appointed course steadily; our eyes fixed upon Jesus as the pioneer and the perfection of faith.

MORNING

We can testify.

Some Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Check your disciples, teacher." But he replied, "I tell you, if they were to keep quiet, the very stones would shout."

So they called the men in and ordered them not to speak or teach a single sentence about the Name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Decide for yourselves whether it is right before God to obey you rather than God. Certainly we cannot give up speaking of what we have seen and heard."

In presence of God and of Christ Jesus who will judge the living and the dead, in the light of his appearance and his reign, I adjure you to preach the word; keep at it in season and out of season, refuting, checking, and exhorting men; never lose patience with them, and never give up your teaching.

Thou knowest, O Eternal One, that openly
  I told the good news to our gathering;
I kept not to myself thy saving help,
  but told aloud thy loyalty and aid,
  making no secret of thy love and faithfulness.
And thou wilt not keep back from me thy mercy;
  thy love and faithfulness shall ever be my guard.

EVENING

He shall not crush a broken reed,
nor quench a wick that dimly burns.

It is a sure word, it deserves all praise, that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"; and though I am the foremost of sinners, I obtained mercy.

One of the criminals who had been hanged also abused him. But the other checked him, saying, "We suffer justly. But he has done no harm." And he added, "Jesus, do not forget me when you come to reign." "I tell you truly," said Jesus, "you will be in paradise with me this very day."

Some men came up, carrying a man who was paralysed. When he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

Jesus asked his father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he said; "it has thrown him into fire and water many a time, to destroy him. If you can do anything, do help us, do have pity on us." Jesus said to him, " 'If you can'! Anything can be done for one who believes."

Lord, "Give us more faith!"

MORNING

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me will never be hungry, and he who believes in me will never again be thirsty."

Come, eat, O fainting souls!
Why spend your money on what is not food,
your earnings on what never satisfies?
Listen to me, oh listen, and you shall feed on good.

Now Martha was so busy attending to them that she grew worried; she came up and said, "Lord, is it all one to you that my sister has left me to do all the work alone? Come, tell her to lend me a hand." The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, Mary has chosen the best dish, and she is not to be dragged away from it."

The Reign of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, it means righteousness, peace, and joy in the holy Spirit; he who serves Christ on these lines, is acceptable to God and esteemed by men.

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
guiding them to fountains of living water;
and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for goodness!
they will be satisfied.

EVENING

For it is the Eternal your God who goes with you, he will never fail you nor forsake you.

If you are mindful to carry out the rules of the Eternal, you will succeed. Be firm and brave; never be daunted or dismayed.

If God is for us, who can be against us? The God who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, surely He will give us everything besides! What can ever part us from Christ's love? Can anguish or calamity or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or the sword? No, in all this we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, no powers of the Height or of the Depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to part us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

For He has said,

Never will I fail you, never will I forsake you.

So that we may say confidently,

The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.
What can men do to me?

MORNING

And everyone who rests this hope on him, purifies himself as He is pure.

Who may ascend the Eternal's hill?
Who may stand within his sacred shrine?
He only who has clean hands and a heart unstained,
who never sets his mind on what is false,
who never breaks his word.

The aim of the Christian discipline is the love that springs from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith.

Judge not, that you may not be judged yourselves;
for as you judge so you will be judged,
and the measure you deal out to others will be dealt out to yourselves.

Do not make yourself responsible for the sins of another man—keep your own life pure.

Shun the lusts of youth and aim at integrity, faith, love and peace, in the company of those who invoke the Lord out of a pure heart.

Blessed are the pure in heart!
they will see God.

Ask and the gift will be yours,
seek and you will find,
knock and the door will open to you.

EVENING

If you keep my commands you will remain within my love.

I have kept my Father's commands and remain within his love.

In him there is no sin, anyone who remains in him does not sin—anyone who sins has neither seen nor known him.

Remain in me, as I remain in you: just as a branch cannot bear fruit by itself, without remaining on the vine; neither can you, unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who remains in me, as I in him, bears rich fruit (because apart from me you can do nothing). If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then ask whatever you like and you shall have it. As you bear rich fruit and prove yourselves my disciples, my Father is glorified.

The unction you received from him remains within you, and you really need no teaching from anyone; simply remain in him, for his unction teaches you about everything and is true and is no lie—remain in him, as it has taught you to do.

MORNING

Keep your tongue from evil,
keep your lips from deceit.

Who may dwell on thy sacred hill?
He whose words are from the heart—
no scandal on his tongue, to hurt his fellow,
no insult heaped upon his neighbour.
He keeps to his oath, though he may lose by it.

Only a base man listens to malicious words;
only the false attend to mischievous talk.
A man who mocks the unfortunate arraigns his Maker.

With the tongue we bless the Lord and Father, and with the tongue we curse men made in God's own likeness; blessing and cursing stream from the same lips! My brothers, this ought not to be.

What a forest is set ablaze by a little spark of fire! And the tongue is a fire, the tongue proves a very world of mischief among our members, setting fire to the round circle of existence with a flame fed by hell.

Let the inspiration of Christ dwell in your midst with all its wealth of wisdom; praise God with thankful hearts.

Do not let evil get the better of you; get the better of evil by doing good.

EVENING

'Tis the Eternal's blessing that brings wealth,
and never does it bring trouble as well.

The Eternal is near the broken-hearted,
and for crushed spirits he has help.
What wealth of kindness thou hast laid up for thy worshippers,
and shown to those who shelter with thyself!

Oh the bliss of him whose guilt is pardoned.
and his sin forgiven!

Then did I own my sin to thee,
uncovering my iniquity;
and as I vowed I would confess,
thou didst remit my sinful guilt.

I call to God,
and the Eternal helps me;
evening, morning, and at noon,
He will hear my cry and give me
peace and freedom from strife.

Leave all to the Eternal, who loves you!
never will he let good men come to grief.

MORNING

Follow my regulations, keep my rules, and live by them.

The Eternal's law is a sound law,
  reviving life;
the Eternal's is a trusty witness,
  that instructs the open-minded;
the Eternal's orders are just,
  a joy to the heart;
the Eternal's command is clear,
  a light to the mind;
the Eternal's faith is a clean faith,
  it will last for ever;
the Eternal's rulings are upright,
  and altogether just.
Yes, and by them thy servant takes warning;
  in following them there is rich profit.
O thou Eternal, evermore thy law stands fast in heaven,
  thy faithful promise holds from age to age, sure upon earth;
  thy rule and order last to-day, for all things are thy servants.

Never imagine I have come to destroy the Law or the prophets; I have not come to destroy but to fulfil.

Maintain the traditions passed on to you.

EVENING

Let the thirsty come,
let anyone who desires it, take
  the water of Life without price.

Ah come, all ye that thirst, come to the waters.

O God, thou art my God, I yearn for thee,
body and soul, I thirst, I long for thee,
like a land without water, weary, dry.
The deer is panting for the stream,
  and, O God, I pant for thee.
I am athirst for God, the living God.

If anyone is athirst, let him come to me and drink.

Never again will they be athirst,
for the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
  guiding them to fountains of living water;
  and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes.

MORNING

He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not slip into temptation."

Take heed to yourselves lest your hearts are overpowered by dissipation and drunkenness and worldly anxieties, and so that Day catches you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all dwellers on the face of all the earth. From hour to hour keep awake, praying that you may succeed in escaping all these dangers to come and in standing before the Son of man.

Watch then, for you never know when the Lord of the House will come, in the late evening or at midnight or at cock-crow or in the morning. Watch, in case he comes suddenly and finds you asleep. Watch: I say it to you, and I say it to all.

And then you know what this Crisis means, you know it is high time to waken up. So let us drop the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of the light; let us live decorously as in the open light of day—no revelry or bouts of drinking, no debauchery or sensuality, no quarrelling or jealousy. No, put on the character of the Lord Jesus Christ and never think how to gratify the cravings of the flesh.

EVENING

He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

God's sacrifice is a soul with its evil crushed:
a heart broken with penitence, O God, never wilt thou despise.
He shall not break the bruised reed,
he shall not put out the smouldering flax.

The Eternal says: I will search for my flock and look for them. As a shepherd looks for his flock on the day when his sheep have been scattered so will I search for my flock.

"I will look for the lost, I will recover those who have been driven away, I will bandage the cripples, I will put strength into the sick."

Blessed are those who feel poor in spirit!
the Realm of heaven is theirs.
Blessed are the mourners!
they will be consoled.

Seeing the Eternal's living power,
the splendour of our God!
Put heart into the listless,
and brace all weak-kneed souls,
tell men with fluttering hearts,
"Have courage, never fear."

MORNING

Reverence Christ as Lord in your own hearts.

The Eternal does not see as man sees; man looks at the outward appearance, but the Eternal looks at the heart.

No sound tree bears rotten fruit,
nor again does a rotten tree bear sound fruit:
each tree is known by its fruit.
The good man produces good from the good stored in his heart,
and the evil man evil from his evil:
for a man's mouth utters what his heart is full of.

For out of the heart come evil designs, murder, adultery, sexual vice, stealing, false witness, and slander.

Woe to you, you irreligious scribes and Pharisees!
you clean the outside of the cup and the plate,
but inside they are filled with your rapacity and self-indulgence.
Blind Pharisees! first clean the inside of the cup,
so that the outside may be clean as well.

Keep in mind whatever is true, whatever is worthy, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is attractive, whatever is high-toned, all excellence, all merit.

Lo, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sup with him.

EVENING

I am the bread of life.

I passed on to you what I received from the Lord himself, namely, that on the night he was betrayed the Lord Jesus took a loaf, and after thanking God he broke it, saying, "This means my body broken for you; do this in memory of me."

Then said Jesus, "It is my Father who gives you the real bread from heaven—for the bread of God is what comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. I am the bread of life; he who comes to me will never be hungry, and he who believes in me will never again be thirsty."

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and more, the bread that I will give is my flesh, given for the life of the world.

Even as the living Father sent me and I live by the Father, so he who feeds on me will also live by me. He who feeds on this bread will live for ever.

MORNING

Aim at peace with all, at that consecration without which no one will ever see the Lord.

Real worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in reality; for these are the worshippers that the Father wants. God is Spirit, and his worshippers must worship him in Spirit and in reality.

I have given them thy word. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I pray not that thou wilt take them out of the world, but that thou wilt keep them from the evil One. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them by the truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, so have I sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself that they may be consecrated by the truth.

I appeal to you, by all the mercy of God, to dedicate your bodies as a living sacrifice, consecrated and acceptable to God; that is your cult, a spiritual rite.

The blood of Christ, who in the spirit of the eternal offered himself as an unblemished sacrifice to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve a living God.

EVENING

Come into your inheritance in the realm prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

After that I looked, and there was a great host whom no one could count, from every nation and trible and people and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

These are the people who have come out of the great Distress, who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
Therefore they are now before the throne of God,
serving him day and night within his temple,
and he who is seated on the throne shall overshadow them with his care.

Then I saw the new heaven and the new earth. And the holy City, the new Jerusalem, descending from God out of heaven. And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, crying,
"Lo, God's dwelling-place is with men,
with men will he dwell;
they shall be his people,
and God will himself be with them:
he shall wipe every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more."

MORNING

For the Realm of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard.

You have a saying, have you not, "Four months yet, then harvest"? Look round, I tell you; see, the fields are white for harvesting! The reaper is already getting his wages and harvesting for life eternal, so that the sower shares the reaper's joy. That proverb, "One sows and another reaps," holds true here: I sent you to reap a crop for which you did not toil; other men have toiled, and you reap the profit of their toil.

Do not criticize at all; the hour of reckoning has still to come, when the Lord will come to bring dark secrets to the light and to reveal life's inner aims and motives. Then each of us will get his meed of praise from God.

What do you possess that has not been given you? And if it was given you, why do you boast as if it had been gained, not given? I have done far more work than all of them—though it was not I but God's grace at my side.

While daylight lasts, we must be busy with the work of him who sent me: night comes, when no one can do any work.

EVENING

This is how we may be sure we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us a share in his own Spirit.

I will ask the Father to give you another Helper to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth: the world cannot receive him, but you know him, because he remains with you and will be within you. I will not leave you forlorn; I am coming to you. You will understand, on that day, that I am in my Father and you are in me and I am in you.

You have received no slavish spirit that would make you relapse into fear; you have received the Spirit of sonship. And when we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is this Spirit testifying along with our own spirit that we are children of God.

God's love floods our hearts through the holy Spirit which has been given to us.

The Spirit assists us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray aright, but the Spirit pleads for us with sighs that are beyond words, and He who searches the human heart knows what is in the mind of the Spirit.

May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in your faith, that you may be overflowing with hope, by the power of the holy Spirit!

MORNING

"I will instruct you and teach you
what is the road to take;
I will give you counsel,
O humble soul."

Trust in the Eternal
He who trusts in himself is but a fool.

Share your food with hungry men,
and take the homeless to your home,
clothe the naked when you see them,
and never turn from any fellow-creature;
then light shall dawn for you in darkness,
your dull hour shall be bright as noon,
and evermore shall the Eternal guide you.

Here is the message we learned from him and announce to you: "God is light and in him there is no darkness, none." If we say, "We have fellowship with him," when we live and move in darkness, then we are lying, we are not practising the truth; but if we live and move within the light, as he is within the light, then we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from every sin.

He who says he is "in the light" and hates his brother, is in darkness still. He who loves his brother remains in the light—and in the light there is no pitfall.

EVENING

He loved his own in this world and he loved them to the end.

To lay life down for his friends, man has no greater love than that.

When we were still in weakness, Christ died in due time for the ungodly. For the ungodly! Why, a man will hardly die for the just—though one might bring oneself to die, if need be, for a good man. But God proves his love for us by this, that Christ died for us when we were still sinners.

For all time he is able to save those who approach God through him, since he is always living to intercede on their behalf.

And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, so that you may be where I am. And you know the way to where I am going.

Where two or three have gathered in my name, I am there among them.
And all the time I will be with you, to the very end of the world.

MORNING

Never be anxious, but always make your requests known to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving.

If two of you agree on earth about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three have gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Have faith in God! I tell you truly, whoever says to this hill, "Take and throw yourself into the sea," and has not a doubt in his mind but believes that what he says will happen, he will have it done. So I tell you, whatever you pray for and ask, believe you have got it and you shall have it.

Is anyone of you in trouble? let him pray. Is anyone thriving? let him sing praise. Is anyone ill? let him summon the presbyters of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; the prayer of faith will restore the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; even the sins he has committed will be forgiven him. So confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed; the prayers of the righteous have a powerful effect.

EVENING

There is a sabbath-Rest reserved still for the People of God.

Come to me, all who are labouring and burdened,
and I will refresh you.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find your souls refreshed;
my yoke is kindly and my burden light.

The Lord, the Eternal, Israel's Majesty,
declared,
"Your strength is quiet faith."

Let not your hearts be disquieted; you believe—believe in God and also in me. In my Father's house there are many abodes; were it not so, would I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you?

Jesus entered for us in advance.

So we shall be with the Lord forever.

Then I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth! Even so—it is the voice of the Spirit; let them rest from their toils; for what they have done goes with them.' "

MORNING

Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, putting on the new nature.

As you once dedicated your members to the service of vice and lawlessness, so now dedicate them to the service of righteousness.

There is a new creation whenever a man comes to be in Christ; what is old is gone, the new has come.

So put to death things that bring down God's anger, rage, malice, slander, foul talk! Tell no lies to one another; you have stripped off the old nature with its practices, and put on the new nature, which is renewed in the likeness of its Creator for the knowledge of him.

I appeal to you by all the mercy of God to dedicate your bodies as a living sacrifice, consecrated and acceptable to God. Instead of being moulded to this world, have your mind renewed, and so be transformed in nature, able to make out what the will of God is, namely, what is good and acceptable to him and perfect.

EVENING

Then Jacob woke up and said, "The Eternal must be here, and I never knew it! This is a very dwelling of God, a very opening into heaven!"

Thou searchest me, Eternal One, thou knowest me,
thou knowest me sitting or rising,
my very thoughts thou readest from afar;
walking or resting, I am scanned by thee,
and all my life to thee lies open.

Where could I go from thy Spirit,
where could I flee from thy face?
I climb to heaven?—but thou art there;
I nestle in the nether-world?—and there thou art!

The Eternal's eyes dart here and there over the whole world, as he exerts his power on behalf of those who are devoted to him.

The God who made the world and all things in it, he, as Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in shrines that are made by human hands.

One God and Father of all, is over us all, pervades us all, is within us all.

Quietly I lay me down to sleep,
for even alone, thanks to thee, I am secure.

MORNING

He said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross day after day, and so follow me."

A scholar is not above his teacher,
  nor a servant above his lord;
enough for the scholar to fare like his teacher,
  and the servant like his lord.
If men have called the master of the house Beelzebul,
  how much more will they miscall his servants!

I have come to set a man against his father,
  a daughter against her mother.
He who loves father or mother more than me
  is not worthy of me;
he who loves son or daughter more than me
  is not worthy of me.

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of goodness!

Blessed are you when men denounce you and persecute you and utter all manner of evil against you for my sake; rejoice and exult in it, for your reward is rich in heaven; that is how they persecuted the prophets before you.

EVENING

The trouble of the passing hour results in a solid glory past all comparison, for those of us whose eyes are on the unseen.

Jesus said, "I tell you truly, no one has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, who does not get a hundred times as much—in this present world homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and lands, together with persecutions, and in the world to come life eternal."

Greet it as pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter any sort of trial, sure that the sterling temper of your faith produces endurance.

Present suffering, I hold, is a mere nothing compared to the glory that we are to have revealed.

Though for the passing moment you may need to suffer various trials; that is only to prove your faith is sterling (far more precious than gold which is perishable and yet is tested by fire), and it redounds to your praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. You never knew him, but you love him; for the moment you do not see him, but you believe in him, and you will thrill with an unspeakable and glorious joy to obtain the outcome of your faith in the salvation of your souls.

MORNING

I have to lead my life in faith, without seeing him.

You never knew him, but you love him; for the moment you do not see him, but you believe in him, and you will thrill with an unspeakable and glorious joy to obtain the outcome of your faith in the salvation of your souls.

It is by grace you have been saved, as you had faith; it is not your doing but God's gift.

I am proud of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who has faith, for the Jew first and for the Greek as well. God's righteousness is revealed in it by faith and for faith—as it is written, By faith shall the righteous live.

For it is by faith that "we" wait in the Spirit for the righteousness we hope for; in Christ Jesus circumcision is not valid, neither is uncircumcision, but only faith active in love.

I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, Christ lives in me; the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me.

EVENING

Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in the hour of need.

Tender and true is the Eternal,
  our God indeed is pitiful;

Turn to the Eternal One your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate.

So I wait in hope for the Eternal,
  my soul waits hoping for his promise;
my soul looks for the Lord
  more eagerly than watchmen for the dawn.
Put your hope in the Eternal, Israel,
  for with the Eternal there is love,
  there is a wealth of saving power;
'tis he who shall save Israel
  from all their sins.

All have sinned, all come short of the glory of God, but they are justified for nothing by his grace through the ransom provided in Christ Jesus, for it is through him that we both enjoy our access to the Father in one Spirit. Thus you are strangers and foreigners no longer, you share the membership of the saints, you belong to God's own household.

MORNING

We have to get into the Realm of God through many a trouble.

And he proceeded to teach them that the Son of man had to endure great suffering, to be rejected by the elders and the high priests and the scribes, to be killed, and after three days to rise again.

Compare him who steadily endured all hostility from sinful men, so as to keep your own hearts from fainting and failing. You have not had to shed blood yet in the struggle against sin.

Join the ranks of those who bear suffering, like a loyal soldier of Christ Jesus.

If we endure, then we shall reign with him,
if we disown him, then he will disown us,
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot be untrue to himself.

Keep your foothold in the faith, and learn to pay the same tax of suffering as the rest of your brotherhood throughout the world. Once you have suffered for a little, the God of all grace who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will repair, recruit, and strengthen you. The dominion is his for ever and ever: Amen.

EVENING

I will extol thee, my God, O King,
and bless thee for ever and ever.

Thou deservest, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for it was thou who didst create all things.

Thou wrappest thyself in a robe of light,
thou spreadest the sky like a tent.

Thy love is high as heaven,
thy loyalty soars to the very skies,
thy justice is like mighty mountains,
thy judgments are like the deep sea.
Thy providence is over man and beast.

Thy faithful followers shall bless thee,
telling of thy glorious kingdom, talking of thy might,
letting men hear of thy mighty acts,
of the glorious splendour of thy kingdom.

MORNING

God has not given us a timid spirit but a spirit of power and love and discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify to our Lord.

A number even of the authorities believed in him, though they would not confess it on account of the Pharisees, in case of being excommunicated; they preferred the approval of men to the approval of God.

Whoever will disown me before men,
I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

They called the men in and ordered them not to speak or teach a single sentence about the Name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Decide for yourselves whether it is right before God to obey you rather than God; certainly we cannot give up speaking of what we have seen and heard."

Jesus sent him away, saying, "Go home and describe all that God has done for you."

Go and do the same.

EVENING

There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries.

Those who revere the Eternal have his confidence;
his compact is to instruct them.

What human being can understand the thoughts of a man,
except the man's own inner spirit?
So too no one understands the thoughts of God,
except the Spirit of God.

Now we have received the Spirit that comes from God, that we may understand what God bestows upon us.

I call you servants no longer, because a servant does not know what his master is doing: I call you friends, because I have imparted to you all that I have learned from my Father.

He thrilled with joy at that hour in the holy Spirit, saying, "I praise thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for concealing this from the wise and learned and revealing it to the simple-minded." Then turning to the disciples, he said,

"All has been handed over to me by my Father:
and no one knows who the Son is except the Father,
or who the Father is except the Son,
and he to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!"

MORNING

Hold fast to my instructions, never let them go,
keep them—they are life to you.

The wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, forbearing, conciliatory, full of mercy and wholesome fruit, unambiguous, straightforward.

At any cost get knowledge—
never leave her, and she will guard you,
love her, and she will take care of you,
prize her, and she will promote you,
and bring you to honour, if you will embrace her,
she will adorn you with charm
and crown you with glory.

Aim at what is above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; mind what is above, not what is on earth, for you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Whoever of you is defective in wisdom, let him ask God who gives to all men without question or reproach, and the gift will be his.

Draw near to God
and he will draw near to you.
Cleanse your hands, you sinners.

Humble yourselves before the Lord,
and he will raise you up.

EVENING

Lo, I create new heavens
and a new earth!

I will give you a new nature. I will take away your hard nature and I will put my own spirit within you, I will make you live by my laws, and you shall obey and observe my orders.

You must lay aside the old nature which crumbles to ruin under the passions of moral deceit, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

Even the creation waits with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. Creation as well as man will one day be freed from its thraldom to decay and gain the glorious freedom of God's children.

The wolf shall couch then with the lamb,
the leopard's lair shall be the kid's;
the lion shall eat straw like any ox,
wolf and lion shall graze side by side,
herded by a little child.

None shall injure, for the land shall be as full of the knowledge of the Eternal as the ocean-bed is full of water.

MORNING

I pour out before him my plaint,
and tell him all my trouble.

Why make me gaze on misery?
Why must I look on at oppression?
Under mine eyes outrage and injury go on.

Then answered the Eternal,
The vision has its own appointed hour,
if it be long, then wait,
for it is sure.
The good man lasts and lives as he is faithful.

My wealth of visions might have puffed me up, so I was given a thorn in the flesh; three times over I prayed the Lord to relieve me of it, but he told me, "It is enough for you to have my grace: it is in weakness that my power is fully felt." It makes me content, for Christ's sake, with weakness, insults, trouble, persecution, and calamity; for I am strong just when I am weak.

Never be anxious, but always make your requests known to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving.

EVENING

The law of the Spirit brings the life which is in Christ Jesus, and that law has set me free from the law of sin and death.

If you abide by what I say, you will understand the truth, and the truth will set you free.

Everyone who commits sin is a slave. Now the slave does not remain in the household for all time; the son of the house does. So, if the Son sets you free, you will be really free.

And if children, heirs as well, heirs of God, heirs along with Christ—for we share his sufferings in order to share his glory.

Make a firm stand then, never slip into any yoke of servitude.

Lead the life of the Spirit; then you will never satisfy the passions of the flesh. For the passion of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the passion of the Spirit against the flesh—the two are at issue.

But the harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, good temper, kindliness, generosity, fidelity, gentleness, self-control:—there is no law against those who practise such things.

MORNING

You will be sons of the Most High—
for he is kind even to the ungrateful and the evil.

Rejoice not when your enemy falls,
never exult when he is overthrown.

Also, whenever you stand up to pray, if you have anything against anybody, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

You must have sympathy, brotherly love, compassion, and humility, never paying back evil for evil, never reviling when you are reviled, but on the contrary blessing. For this is your vocation, to bless and to inherit blessing.

Who will wrong you if you have a passion for goodness? Even supposing you have to suffer for the sake of what is right, still you are blessed. Have no fear of their threats, do not let that trouble you, but reverence Christ as Lord in your own hearts.

Hatred stirs up strife:
love draws a veil over all wrongdoing.

EVENING

On those who have accepted him, he has conferred the right of being children of God.

For this very reason, do you contrive to make it your whole concern to furnish your faith with resolution, resolution with intelligence, intelligence with self-control, self-control with steadfastness, steadfastness with godliness, godliness with brotherliness, and brotherliness with Christian love.

If Christ is within you, the spirit is living as the result of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells within you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies live by his indwelling Spirit in your lives.

No ear has ever heard,
no eye has ever seen,
the mighty deeds that thou wilt do
for those who look to thee.
At present I am learning bit by bit,
but then I shall understand, as all along I have myself been understood.

MORNING

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all manner of prayer and entreaty.

Be alive to that, attend to it unceasingly, interceding on behalf of all the saints.

Is anyone of you in trouble? let him pray. Is anyone thriving? let him sing praise. Is anyone ill? let him summon the presbyters of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; the prayer of faith will restore the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; even the sins he has committed will be forgiven him. So confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed; the prayers of the righteous have a powerful effect.

He put them into the inner prison and secured their feet in the stocks. But Paul and Silas were praying and singing to God.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, "rejoice." Never be anxious, but always make your requests known to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; so shall God's peace, that surpasses all our dreams, keep guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

EVENING

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
for he has cared for his people and wrought them redemption.

O thou Eternal, God of hosts, who can compare with thee,
in all thy love and faithfulness?
Happy the people who know thy festal songs,
who live within the sunshine of thy favour!

The disciples said, "Who then can possibly be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "This is impossible for men, but anything is possible for God."

By the action of his power within us he is able to do all, aye far more than we can ever ask or imagine.

The heavens are thine, the earth is thine,
'twas thou didst found the world and all it holds.
Thine is a right powerful arm,
a strong hand, a right hand swung high;
thy throne rests upon equity and justice,
Love and Faithfulness are thine attendants.

MORNING

A lover of goodness [is] master of himself.

In a race, though all run, only one man gains the prize. Run so as to win the prize. Every athlete practises self-restraint all round; but while they do it to win a fading wreath, we do it for an unfading.

His power divine has bestowed upon us every requisite for life and godliness by the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence—bestowing on us thereby promises precious and supreme, that by means of them you may escape the corruption produced within the world by lust, and participate in the divine nature.

As Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, let this very conviction that he who has suffered in the flesh gets quit of sin, nerve you to spend the rest of your time in the flesh for the will of God and no longer for human passions.

Be an ornament to the doctrine of God our Saviour in all respects. For the grace of God schools us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions and to live a life of self-mastery, of integrity, in this present world. Christ Jesus gave himself up for us to redeem us from all iniquity and secure himself a clean people, with a zest for good deeds.

EVENING

The sheep listen to his voice; he calls his sheep by name and leads them out.

It is not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord!" who will get into the Realm of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me at that Day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? did we not cast out dæmons in your name? did we not perform many miracles in your name?" Then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from my presence, you workers of iniquity."

To those who wait for him the Eternal is kind,
a stronghold in the day of trouble;
he cares for those who trust in him,
and rescues them when the floods overflow.

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing?
Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unless your Father wills it. The very hairs on your head are all numbered.

Let not your hearts be disquieted. In my Father's house there are many abodes; were it not so, would I have told you I was going to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, so that you may be where I am.

MORNING

The Reign of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, it means righteousness, peace, and joy in the holy Spirit.

As for those who were sown on good soil, these are the people who listen to the word and take it in, bearing fruit at the rate of thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.

He said, "It is with the Realm of God as when a man has sown seed on earth; he sleeps at night and rises by day, and the seed sprouts and shoots up —he knows not how."

The wisdom from above is pure, peaceable, forbearing, conciliatory, full of mercy and wholesome fruit; and the peacemakers who sow in peace reap righteousness.

Never get drunk with wine—that means profligacy—but be filled with the Spirit, praise the Lord heartily with words and music, and render thanks to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ at all times and for all things.

EVENING

The Eternal is rich in love, forgiving iniquity and transgression.

Remember not our fathers' sins against us:
  let thy compassion hasten to our need,
  for we are low indeed.
Help us, O God our saviour,
  for the sake of thine own honour,
  and cancel thou our sins;
rescue us, as thou art God.

  Even though our sins accuse us,
though many a time we have fallen away,
  and sinned against thee,
O thou Eternal, surely thou art still among us,
  surely we belong to thee;
  do not forsake us!

Let guilty men give up their ways,
  and evil men their purposes;
let them turn back to the Eternal,
  who will pity them,
turn back to our God, for he
  will pardon them abundantly.

    So I wait in hope for the Eternal,
      for with the Eternal there is love,
      there is a wealth of saving power.

MORNING

My dear children, let us put our love not into words or into talk but into deeds, and make it real.

Looking up he saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and noticed a poor widow putting two little coins in. He said, "I tell you plainly, this poor widow has put in more than them all; for these people all contributed of their surplus, but she has given out of her neediness all her living."

Suppose some brother or sister is ill-clad and short of daily food; if any of you tells them, "Depart in peace! Get warm, get food," without supplying their bodily needs, what use is that? So faith, unless it has deeds, is dead in itself.

This service shows what you are, it makes men praise God for the way you have come under the gospel of Christ which you confess, and for the generosity of your contributions to themselves and to all; they are drawn to you and pray for you, on account of the surpassing grace which God has shown to you.

Mark this: he who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows generously will reap a generous harvest. Everyone is to give what he has made up his mind to give; there is to be no grudging or compulsion about it, for God loves the giver who gives cheerfully. God is able to bless you with ample means, so that you may always have quite enough for any emergency of your own and ample besides for any kind act to others.

EVENING

We know that anyone who is born of God does not sin.

Everyone who commits sin commits lawlessness: sin is lawlessness, and you know he appeared to take our sins away. In him there is no sin; anyone who remains in him does not sin. Let no one deceive you, dear children: he who practises righteousness is just, as He is just. Anyone who is born of God does not commit sin.

But, dead in trespasses as we were, God was so rich in mercy that for his great love to us he made us live together with Christ (it is by grace you have been saved); together with Christ he raised us and seated us within the heavenly sphere in Christ Jesus, to display throughout ages to come his surpassing wealth of grace and goodness toward us in Christ Jesus.

So take God's armour, that you may be able to make a stand upon the evil day and hold your ground by overcoming all the foe.

Hold your ground, tighten the belt of truth about your loins, wear integrity as your coat of mail, and have your feet shod with the stability of the gospel of peace; take faith as your shield, put on salvation as your helmet, and take the Spirit as your sword.

MORNING

"Repent, the Reign of heaven is near."

Ages of ignorance God overlooked, but he now charges men that they are all everywhere to repent, inasmuch as he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world justly by a man whom he has destined for this. And he has given proof of this to all by raising him from the dead.

I am glad—not glad that you were pained but glad that your pain induced you to repent. For you were pained as God meant you to be pained, the pain God is allowed to guide ends in a saving repentance never to be regretted. See what this pain divine has done for you, how serious it has made you, how keen to clear yourselves.

He told them this parable, "Which of you with a hundred sheep, if he loses one, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one till he finds it? When he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders with joy, and when he gets home he gathers his friends and neighbours: 'Rejoice with me,' he says to them, 'for I have found the sheep I lost.' So, I tell you, there will be joy in heaven over a single sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine good people who do not need to repent."

EVENING

Try the Eternal; you will find him kind;
happy the man who takes shelter with him!

Though mountains be removed,
and hills be shaken,
never shall my love leave you,
my compact for your welfare shall stand firm:
so promises the Eternal in his pity.

Magnify the Eternal with me,
let us exalt him together.
I besought the Eternal and he answered me,
he rescued me from all my terrors;
look to him, and you shall beam with joy,
you shall never be abashed.

He laid his hand on me, saying, "Be not afraid; I am the First and the Last, I was dead and here am I alive for evermore, holding the keys that unlock death and Hades."

Happy the man who calls the Eternal "My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust!"

MORNING

We may share in his own holiness.

"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts,
his majestic splendour fills the whole earth!"

Then I said, "Alas! I am undone! man of unclean lips that I am, living among a people of unclean lips!"

This is the covenant I will make, saith the Lord;
I will set my laws within their mind,
inscribing them upon their hearts;
I will be a God to them,
and they shall be a People to me.

Be obedient children, instead of moulding yourselves to passions that once ruled the days of your ignorance; as He who called you is holy, so you must be holy too in all your conduct—for it is written, You shall be holy because I am holy.

EVENING

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, he forgives our sins and cleanses us from all iniquity.

When he came to his senses, he said, "How many hired men of my father have more than enough to eat, and here am I, perishing of hunger! I will be up and off to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I don't deserve to be called your son any more; only make me like one of your hired men.'" So he got up and went off to his father. But when he was still far away, his father saw him and felt pity for him and ran to fall upon his neck and kiss him.

Hide thy face from my sins,
and wipe out all my guilt;
make me a clean heart, O God
and put a new, steadfast spirit in me;
banish me not from thy presence,
deprive me not of thy sacred Spirit;
gladden me with thy saving aid again,
and give me a willing spirit as my strength.

Come, let me put it thus,
the Eternal argues:
scarlet your sins may be,
but they can become white as snow,
they may be red as crimson,
and yet turn white as wool.
I have swept aside your ill deeds like a mist,
and your sins like a cloud.

MORNING

For we have no lasting city here below, we seek the City to come.

Thy statutes are my songs, as I wander through the world.
I remember thy name by night and I obey thy law.

Beloved, as sojourners and exiles I appeal to you to abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war upon the soul.

I know that if this earthly tent of mine is taken down, I get a home from God, made by no human hands, eternal in the heavens.

I am prepared for this change by God, who has given me the Spirit as its pledge and instalment. Come what may, then, I am confident; I know that while I reside in the body I am away from the Lord, and in this confidence fain would I get away from the body and reside with the Lord. Hence also I am eager to satisfy him, whether in the body or away from it.

And the City needs no sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God illumines it, and its radiance is the Lamb.

Nothing profane, none who practises abomination or falsehood shall ever enter,
but those alone whose names are written in the Lamb's book of Life.

EVENING

It is enough for you to have my grace.

Joseph was good looking and handsome. By and by his master's wife cast her eyes on him: "Lie with me," she said. But he refused. He said, "My master has kept nothing from me except yourself, for you are his wife. How then can I commit this great crime, and sin against God?"

For forty days he was led by the Spirit in the desert, while the devil tempted him. And after exhausting every kind of temptation, the devil left him.

As we have a great high priest, then, who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession; for ours is no high priest who cannot have sympathy with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every respect like ourselves, yet without sinning. Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in the hour of need.

No temptation has waylaid you that is beyond man's power; trust God, he will never let you be tempted beyond what you can stand, but when temptation comes, he will provide the way out of it, so that you can bear up under it.

MORNING

Take on the character of Christ.

Put to death those members that are on earth: sexual vice, impurity, appetite, evil desire, and lust (which is as bad as idolatry) things that bring down God's anger on the sons of disobedience. Once you moved among them, when you lived in them; but off with them all now, off with anger, rage, malice, slander, foul talk! Tell no lies to one another; you have stripped off the old nature with its practices, and put on the new nature, which is renewed in the likeness of its Creator for the knowledge of him.

Lay aside the old nature which crumbles to ruin under the passions of moral deceit, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

Put on the apron of humility to serve one another, for
the haughty God opposes,
but to the humble he gives grace.

I have made your iniquity pass from you.

"The conqueror shall be clad in white raiment; I will never erase his name from the book of Life, but will own him openly before my Father and before his angels." Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit says.

EVENING

Make the Eternal your delight,
and he will give you all your heart's desire.

"Tell me what you think. A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard to-day'; he replied, 'I will go, sir,' but he did not go. The man went to the second and said the same to him; he replied, 'I will not,' but afterwards he changed his mind and did go. Which of the two did the will of the father?" They said, "The last." Jesus said to them, "I tell you truly, the taxgatherers and harlots are going into the Realm of God before you."

Then he went forward a little and fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass me. Yet, not what I will but what thou wilt."

The confidence we have in him is this, that he listens to us whenever we ask anything in accordance with his will; and that we obtain the requests we have made to him.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with all manner of prayer and entreaty.

Never be anxious, but always make your requests known to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; so shall God's peace, that surpasses all our dreams, keep guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

MORNING

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who remains in me, as I in him, bears rich fruit.

The seventy came back with joy. "Lord," they said, "the very dæmons obey us in your name." He said to them, "I have indeed given you the power. Only,

rejoice not because the spirits obey you:
rejoice because your names are enrolled in heaven."

He thrilled with joy at that hour in the holy Spirit, saying, "I praise thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for concealing this from the wise and learned and revealing it to the simple-minded."

They were astonished to notice how outspoken Peter and John were, and to discover that they were uncultured persons and mere outsiders; they recognized them as having been companions of Jesus, but as they saw the man who had been healed standing beside them, they could say nothing.

Truly, truly I tell you, he who believes in me will do the very deeds I do, and still greater deeds than these. For I am going to the Father, and I will do whatever you ask in my name, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; I will do whatever you ask me in my name. If you love me you will keep my commands.

EVENING

Jesus replied, "Truly, truly I tell you, no one can see God's Realm unless he is born from above."

The Son of man, descended from heaven, is the only one who has ever ascended into heaven.

The real Light, which enlightens every man, coming into the world.

On those who have accepted him he has conferred the right of being children of God, who owe this birth of theirs to God.

He came with a gospel of peace, for it is through him we enjoy our access to the Father. Thus you are strangers and foreigners no longer, you share the membership of the saints, you belong to God's own household.

All flesh is like grass,
and all its glory like the flower of grass:
grass withers,
its flower fades,
but the Lord's word lasts for ever—

And that is the word of the gospel for you. So off with all malice, all guile and insincerity and envy and slander of every kind! Like newly born children, thirst for the pure, spiritual milk to make you grow up to salvation.

MORNING

I laid me down to sleep,
and this morning I waken, for the Eternal upholds me.

God's gifts come to his loved ones, as they sleep.
He who guards Israel will neither sleep nor slumber.

I ask, "And what is man, that thou shouldst think of him
What is a mortal man, that thou shouldst heed him?"
Yet thou hast made him little less than divine,
thou hast crowned him with majesty and honour,
giving him sway o'er all thy hands have made.

To the kind thou provest kind,
and true to the true,
to the pure thou provest pure,
the humble thou wilt raise.

The Eternal's law is a sound law,
reviving life;
the Eternal's orders are just,
a joy to the heart;
the Eternal's command is clear,
a light to the mind;
The Eternal's faith is a clean faith,
it will last for ever.

EVENING

For thou hast been my help.

Hard pressed, I called to the Eternal;
the Eternal answered, and he set me free.
Far better to rely on the Eternal than put faith in men.

"He is good,
his kindness never fails!"
Be this the song of the redeemed,
gathered from lands afar,
from east and west, from north and south.

Some wandered in the lonely wilderness,
their soul was faint;
Some, weakened by their sinful ways,
were sick and suffering through evildoing;
they cried to the Eternal in their need,
he sent his word to heal them and preserve their life.

Not one of the good promises made by the Eternal failed; all were fulfilled.

He who believes in Him will never be disappointed.

MORNING

He listens to us whenever we ask anything in accordance with his will.

"Did I not tell you," said Jesus, "if you will only believe, you shall see the glory of God?" Then lifting his eyes to heaven, he said, "Father, I thank thee for listening to me."

Have faith in God! I tell you truly, whoever says to this hill, "Take and throw yourself into the sea," and has not a doubt in his mind but believes that what he says will happen, he will have it done. So I tell you, whatever you pray for and ask, believe you have got it and you shall have it.

Apart from faith it is impossible to satisfy him, for the man who draws near to God must believe that he exists and that he does reward those who seek him.

If our heart does not condemn us, beloved, then we have confidence in approaching God, and we get from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight.

EVENING

Who is a God like thee?—forgiving sins
and passing over wrong.

Thou wilt have pity upon us,
and wash off our iniquities.

Scarlet your sins may be,
but they can become white as snow,
they may be red as crimson,
and yet turn white as wool.

Can a woman forget her infant,
forget to pity her babe?
Yet even were a mother to forget,
never will I forget you.
Turn to me and you are saved,
all ends of the earth!
As I am God and God alone.

O Lord, my heart in hope
relies on thee;
Oh cast behind thy back
all my iniquities!

MORNING

God is able to bless you with ample means, so that you may always have quite enough for any emergency of your own and ample besides for any kind act to others.

Mark this: he who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows generously will reap a generous harvest.

This service shows what you are, it makes men praise God for the way you have come under the gospel of Christ which you confess, and for the generosity of your contributions to themselves and to all; they are drawn to you and pray for you, on account of the surpassing grace which God has shown to you.

Pure, unsoiled religion in the judgment of God the Father means this: to care for orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself from the stain of the world.

Honour the Eternal with your wealth,
and with the best of all you make.

God is not unfair; he will not forget what you have done, nor the love you have shown for his sake in ministering, as you still do, to the saints.

EVENING

Love to God means keeping his commands. And his commands are not irksome.

At that time Jesus spoke and said, "I praise thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding all this from the wise and learned and revealing it to the simple-minded; yes, Father, I praise thee that such was thy chosen purpose."

Come to me, all ye labouring and burdened,
and I will refresh you.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find your souls refreshed;
my yoke is kindly and my burden light.

He who says he is "in the light" and hates his brother, is in darkness still. He who loves his brother remains in the light—and in the light there is no pitfall; but he who hates his brother is in darkness, he walks in darkness and does not know where he is going, for the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Now this is what he commands, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another as he has commanded us to do; he who obeys his commands remains within him—and He remains within him.

Love never wrongs a neighbour; that is why love is the fulfilment of the law.

MORNING

You are not your own, you were bought for a price; then glorify God with your body.

None of us lives to himself,
  and none of us dies to himself;
if we live, we live to the Lord,
  and if we die, we die to the Lord.
We are the Lord's whether we live or die.

I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, Christ lives in me; the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me.

So you must not boast about men. For all belongs to you; the world, life, death, the present and the future—all belongs to you; and you belong to Christ, and Christ to God.

My eager desire and hope being that I may never feel ashamed, but that now as ever I may do honour to Christ in my own person by fearless courage. Whether that means life or death, no matter! As life means Christ to me, so death means gain. If it is to be life here below, that means fruitful work for me.

EVENING

Thy commands make me wise.

Right well they fare who love thy law; their road is clear.

How sweet thy sayings are, sweeter than honey to the taste!
  I learn sense from thy behests, learn to hate godless ways.

Thy statutes are my songs, as I wander through the world.
  I remember thy name by night and I obey thy law;
  this is my blessed lot, to carry out thy behests.
Yes, O Eternal, to obey thy bidding, this is my lot;
  with all my heart I pray thee to revive me, as thou hast promised.
Thinking on how to live, I turn to thy directions.

I keep company with all thy worshippers who carry out thy will;
Teach me thine orders, for the world is full of thy goodness.

Let the inspiration of Christ dwell in your midst with all its wealth of wisdom; teach and train one another with the music of psalms, with hymns, and songs of the spiritual life; praise God with thankful hearts.

Constantly thank God for this too, that when you received the word of the divine message, you took it not as a human word but for what it really is, the word of God.

MORNING

No boasting for me, none, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I crucified to the world.

A wise man must not glory in his wisdom, nor a warrior in his strength, nor the rich man in his riches, he who glories is to glory in this, that he has insight into me, that he knows I am the Eternal, dealing in kindness, justice, and goodness upon earth—for these are my delight.

But for Christ's sake I have learned to count my former gains a loss; indeed I count anything a loss, compared to the supreme value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have lost everything (I count it all the veriest refuse) in order to gain Christ and be found at death in him, possessing no legal righteousness of my own but the righteousness of faith in Christ, the divine righteousness that rests on faith. I would know him in the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, with my nature transformed to die as he died, to see if I too can attain the resurrection from the dead.

This is the God to whom you owe your being in Christ Jesus, whom God has made our "Wisdom," that is, our righteousness and consecration and redemption.

EVENING

His name is written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Many were the forms and fashions in which God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these days at the end he has spoken to us by a Son—a Son whom he has appointed heir of the universe, as it was by him that he created the world. He, reflecting God's bright glory and stamped with God's own character, sustains the universe with his word of power; when he had secured our purification from sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

It is in Christ that the entire Fulness of deity has settled bodily.

For a child has been born to us,
  and this the title that he bears—
"A wonder of a counsellor,
  a divine hero,
a father for all time,
  a peaceful prince!"
Great is his authority,
  endless is his peace.

The rule of the world has passed to our Lord and his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever.

God is thy throne for ever and ever,
thy royal sceptre is the sceptre of equity.

MORNING

You are the servants of the master you obey, whether it is Sin, whose service ends in death, or Obedience, whose service ends in righteousness.

When you served sin, you were free of righteousness. The end of all that is death; but now that you are set free from sin, you have passed into the service of God, and the end of that is life eternal. Sin's wage is death, but God's gift is life eternal in Christ Jesus our Lord.

For the case is that of a man going abroad who summoned his servants and handed over his property to them; to one he gave twelve hundred pounds, to another five hundred, and to another two hundred and fifty; each got according to his capacity.

You must serve one another, each with the talent he has received, as efficient stewards of God's varied grace; it must be as one who is supplied by God with power—so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. The glory and the dominion are his for ever and ever: Amen.

He who has much given him
will have much required from him,
and he who has much entrusted to him
will have all the more demanded of him.

While daylight lasts, we must be busy with the work of God: night comes, when no one can do any work.

EVENING

Those who revere the Eternal have his confidence;
his compact is to instruct them.

The Eternal thought, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am going to do? I have chosen him that he may charge his sons and his household after him to follow the directions of the Eternal by doing what is good and right."

It is granted you to understand the open secrets of the Realm of heaven.

I have made thy Name known to the men whom thou hast given to me from the world. I have given them the words thou gavest me, and they have received them; they are now sure that I came from thee, and they believe that thou didst send me.

God has revealed it to us by the Spirit, for the Spirit fathoms everything, even the depths of God.

Now we have received the Spirit—not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that comes from God, that we may understand what God bestows upon us.

MORNING

A man reaps the result of all his words,
and he must answer for his deeds.

Long afterwards, the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. Then the servant said, "You handed me twelve hundred pounds, sir; here I have gained another twelve hundred." His master said to him, "Capital, you excellent and trusty servant! You have been trusty in charge of a small sum: I will put you in charge of a large sum."

To this very hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and knocked about, we are waifs, we work hard for our living; when reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we put up with it, when defamed, we try to conciliate.

For we have all to appear without disguise before the tribunal of Christ, each to be requited for what he has done with his body, well or ill.

Let the wicked still be wicked,
let the filthy still be filthy,
let the righteous still do right,
let the holy still be holy!
Blessed are those who wash their robes, that theirs may be the right to the tree of Life, the right to enter the gates of the City!

EVENING

Have we not all one Father? Has not one God made us?

I praise thee for the awful wonder of my birth;
thy work is wonderful.
for thou didst form my being,
didst weave me in my mother's womb.
Thou knewest all about my soul,
my body was no mystery to thee,
as I was being moulded secretly
and put together in the world below.

All nations he has created from a common origin, to dwell all over the earth, meaning them to seek for God. Though indeed he is close to each one of us, for it is in him that we live and move and exist—as some of your own poets have said,
"We too belong to His race."

He in his great pity cancels sin,
dooms not to death;
he remembered they were mortal men.

If for all your evil you know to give your children what is good,
how much more will your Father give the holy Spirit from heaven to those who ask him?

MORNING

You are all sons of the Light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness.

For God destined us not for Wrath but to gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us that waking in life or sleeping in death we should live together with him.

What have righteousness and iniquity in common,
  or how can light associate with darkness?
What harmony can there be between Christ and Belial,
  or what business has a believer with an unbeliever?

Never set foot upon a bad man's path,
  and take not the road of evil men;
avoid it, never follow it,
  shun it, and pass on.
For they cannot sleep till they have done some wrong,
  till they have tripped up someone, they are sleepless;
they eat ill-gotten food
  and drink wine won by cruelty.
The course of bad men lies through darkness dim,
  they cannot see what makes them stumble;
the course of good men, like a ray of dawn,
  shines on and on to the full light of day.

I have come as light into the world, that no one who believes in me may remain in the dark.

EVENING

As a branch cannot bear fruit by itself, without remaining on the vine, neither can you, unless you remain in me.

If Christ is within you, though the body is a dead thing owing to Adam's sin, the spirit is living as the result of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells within you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies live by his indwelling Spirit in your lives.

He yearns jealously for the spirit he set within us.
You are God's temple and God's Spirit dwells within you.

He who obeys his commands remains within him—and He remains within him. And this is how we may be sure he remains within us, by means of the spirit he has given us.

God is Spirit, and his worshippers must worship him in Spirit and in reality.

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who remains in me, as I in him, bears rich fruit.

MORNING

Never worship any other god.

Serve him with an undivided heart and a willing mind; for the Eternal searches all hearts, he knows all that passes in the mind.

The Eternal does not see as man sees; man looks at the outward appearance, but the Eternal looks at the heart.

If our heart does not condemn us, beloved, then we have confidence in approaching God.

You turned to God from idols, to serve a living and a real God.
No one can serve two masters:
either he will hate one and love the other,
or else he will stand by the one and despise the other—
you cannot serve both God and Mammon.

Once convinced of this, then, I estimate no one by what is external; even though I once estimated Christ by what is external, I no longer estimate him thus.

'Tis inward truth that thou desirest;
grant me then wisdom in my secret heart.

EVENING

It is not real, what a bad man gains;
but goodness yields a lasting profit.

The selfish man is eager to get rich.

Riches do not last for ever,
nor wealth from age to age.
Man's busy life indeed is but a phantom,
making an empty ado,
amassing wealth and knowing not
who is to have his hoard.

Store up no treasures for yourselves on earth,
where moth and rust corrode,
where thieves break in and steal:
store up treasures for yourselves in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust corrode,
where thieves do not break in and steal.
For where your treasure lies,
your heart will lie there too.

Hence I never lose heart; though my outward man decays, my inner man is renewed day after day. The slight trouble of the passing hour results in a solid glory past all comparison for those of us whose eyes are on the unseen, not on the seen; for the seen is transient, the unseen eternal.

MORNING

You have passed into the service of God.

If we sin deliberately, after receiving the knowledge of the Truth, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins left.

We know who said, Vengeance is mine, I will exact a requital: and again, The Lord will pass sentence on his people. It is an awful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

In Sion sinful men are terrified,
the impious are seized with shuddering,
crying, "Oh who can live with such a devouring Fire?
Who can live on, with such a lasting Flame?"

The axe is lying all ready at the root of the trees; any tree that is not producing good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

I am the real Vine, and my Father is the vine-dresser; he cuts away any branch on me which is not bearing fruit, and cleans every branch which does bear fruit, to make it bear richer fruit. You are already clean by the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you: just as a branch cannot bear fruit by itself, without remaining on the vine, neither can you, unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who remains in me, as I in him, bears rich fruit.

EVENING

For it was no fabricated fables that we followed when we reported to you the power and advent of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is of what we saw and heard that we bring you word, so that you may share our fellowship; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

We heard with our ears, we saw with our eyes, we witnessed and touched with our own hands.

Born of David's offspring by natural descent and installed as Son of God with power by the Spirit of holiness when he was raised from the dead—Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ certainly did not please himself, but, as it is written, The reproaches of those who denounced Thee have fallen upon me.—All such words were written of old for our instruction, that by remaining steadfast and drawing encouragement from the scriptures we may cherish hope.

Jesus said to him, "You believe because you have seen me? Blessed be those who believe though they have never seen me."

MORNING

On the day of judgment men will have to account for every careless word they utter.

You have heard how the men of old were told "You must not forswear yourself, but discharge your vows to the Lord." But I tell you, you must not swear any oath.

Let what you say be simply "yes" or "no";
whatever goes beyond that springs from evil.

Abuse no one, nor quarrel, but be conciliatory, displaying perfect gentleness to all men.

They were conversing, and during their conversation and discussion Jesus himself overtook them and walked beside them.

Those who worshipped the Eternal talked to each other, and the Eternal heeded them and heard them; before him lies a record of his worshippers who adhere to him. "And I will claim them," the Lord of hosts declares, "as my own prized possession on the day when I take action."

EVENING

Jesus said, "I am myself resurrection and life:
he who believes in me will live, even if he dies,
and no one who lives and believes in me will ever die."

The animate, not the spiritual, comes first,
and only then the spiritual.
Man the first is from the earth, material;
Man the second is from heaven.

In him life lay,
and this life was the Light for men.

On those who have accepted him, however, he has conferred the right of being children of God, that is, on those who believe in his Name, who owe this birth of theirs to God, not to human blood, nor to any impulse of the flesh or of man. So the Logos became flesh and tarried among us; we have seen his glory—glory such as an only son enjoys from his father—seen it to be full of grace and reality.

He who believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me, and he who beholds me beholds him who sent me.

He who rejects me and will not receive my words has indeed a judge: the word I have spoken will judge him on the last day, for I have not spoken of my own accord—the Father who sent me, he it was who ordered me what to say and what to speak. And I know that his orders mean eternal life.

MORNING

Blessed is he who endures under trial; for when he has stood the test, he will gain the crown of life which is promised to all who love Him.

Do you not know that in a race, though all run, only one man gains the prize? Run so as to win the prize. Every athlete practises self-restraint all round; but while they do it to win a fading wreath, we do it for an unfading.

Join the ranks of those who bear suffering, like a loyal soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civil pursuits; his aim is to satisfy his commander. Again, a competitor in the games is not crowned unless he observes the rules. The farmer who has done the work must have the first share of the fruit. Think what I mean! The Lord will help you to understand it perfectly.

Why, we had fathers of our flesh to discipline us, and we yielded to them! Shall we not far more submit to the Father of our spirits, and so live? For while their discipline was only for a time, and inflicted at their pleasure, he disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his own holiness.

Have no fear of what you are to suffer. Be faithful and I will give you the crown of Life.

Oil of joy for mourning robes,
praise for plaintiveness.

EVENING

Open mine eyes to see the wonders of thy law.

I store thy word within my heart, to keep myself from sinning against thee.
Blessed be thou, O Eternal teach me thy will.
I find more joy in thine injunctions than in any wealth.
I muse on thy behests and mark thy paths;
in thy will I delight, I never will forget thy word.

As I learn the justice of thy rulings, I thank thee with unfeigned heart;
I will obey thee: never do thou forsake me.
How can a young man keep life clean? By keeping to thy word.
I give thee an undivided heart; oh never may I stray from thy control!

The Helper, the holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything.

MORNING

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.

I pray not that thou wilt take them out of the world, but that thou wilt keep them from the evil one. As thou hast sent me into the world, so have I sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself that they may be consecrated by the truth.

The Lord Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil world.

. . . [and to] fill you with all joy and peace in your faith, that you may be overflowing with hope, by the power of the holy Spirit!

Bear yourselves uprightly before pagans; so that they may come to glorify God by what they see of your good conduct.

So your light is to shine before men, that they may see the good you do and glorify your Father in heaven.

Now to him who is able to keep you from slipping and to make you stand unblemished and exultant before his glory—to the only God, our saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and for all time: Amen.

EVENING

I know whom I have trusted.

He who relies on man,
  turning his thoughts from the Eternal,
is like some desert scrub
  that never thrives,
set in a dry place in the steppes,
  in a salt, solitary land.
But happy he who relies on the Eternal.
He is like a tree planted beside a stream,
  reaching its roots to the water;
it goes on bearing fruit in day of drought,
  and lives serene.

Leave it all quietly to God, my soul,
  my rescue comes from him alone;
rock, rescue, refuge, he is all to me,
never shall I be overthrown.

Since we thus have confidence to enter the holy Presence, let us draw near with a true heart, in absolute assurance of faith; let us hold the hope we avow without wavering (for we can rely on him who gave us the Promise).

MORNING

For whoever listens and does nothing, is like a man who glances at his natural face in a mirror; he glances at himself, goes off, and at once forgets what he was like.

Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples. "The scribes and Pharisees sit on the seat of Moses; so do whatever they tell you, obey them, but do not do as they do. They talk but they do not act; they make up heavy loads and lay them on men's shoulders, but they will not stir a finger to remove them."

What is the use of anyone declaring that he has faith, if he has no deeds to show? Can that faith of his save him? Suppose some brother or sister is ill-clad and short of daily food; if any of you tells them, "Depart in peace! Get warm, get food," without supplying their bodily needs, what use is that? So faith, unless it has deeds, is dead in itself. Someone will object, "And you claim to have faith!" Yes, and I claim to have deeds as well; you show me your faith without any deeds, and I will show you by my deeds what faith is!

It is not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord!" who will get into the Realm of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me at that Day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? did we not cast out dæmons in your name? did we not perform many miracles in your name?" Then I will declare to them, "I never knew you."

EVENING

You have received the Spirit of sonship.

When he came to his senses, he said, "How many hired men of my father have more than enough to eat, and here am I, perishing of hunger! I will be up and off to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I don't deserve to be called your son any more; only make me like one of your hired men.' "

But the father said to his servants, "Quick, bring the best robe and put it on him, give him a ring for his hand and sandals for his feet, and bring the fatted calf, kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for my son here was dead and he has come to life, he was lost and he is found."

It is because you are sons that God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying "Abba! Father!"

You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

MORNING

Blessed are you when men denounce you and persecute you and utter all manner of evil against you for my sake.

If the world hates you, remember it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love what it owned; it is because you do not belong to the world, because I have chosen you from the world, that the world hates you. Remember what I told you, "A servant is not greater than his master."

If they persecuted me, they will persecute you;
if they hold to my word, they will hold to yours.

I have come to set a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
yes, a man's own household will be his enemies.
He who loves father or mother more than me
is not worthy of me;
he who loves son or daughter more than me
is not worthy of me:
he who will not take his cross and follow after me
is not worthy of me.
He who has found his life will lose it,
and he who loses his life for my sake will find it.

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.

EVENING

Christ's presence your hope of glory.

It was not by perishable silver or gold that you were ransomed from the futile traditions of your past, but by the precious blood of Christ, a lamb unblemished and unstained. He was predestined before the foundation of the world and has appeared at the end of the ages for your sake; it is by him that you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory.

He has spoken to us by a Son—a Son whom he has appointed heir of the universe, as it was by him that he created the world. He, reflecting God's bright glory and stamped with God's own character, sustains the universe with his word of power.

For I am controlled by the love of Christ, convinced that as One has died for all, then all have died, and that he died for all in order to have the living live no longer for themselves but for him who died and rose for them.

Christ lives in me; the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me.

MORNING

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me,
he cannot be a disciple of mine.

For which of you, wanting to build a tower, does not first sit down to calculate the expense, to see if he has enough money to complete it?—in case, after he has laid the foundation and then is unable to finish the building, all the spectators start to make fun of him, saying, "This fellow started to build but he could not finish it!"

So with everyone of you who will not part with all his goods—
he cannot be a disciple of mine.

As Jesus passed along from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-office; he said to him, "Follow me"; and he rose and followed him.

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "There is one thing you want," he said; "go and sell all you have; give the money to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, take up the cross, and follow me."

The Realm of heaven is like a trader in search of fine pearls; when he finds a single pearl of high price, he is off to sell all he possesses and buy it.

I count anything a loss, compared to the supreme value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

EVENING

Man's goings are observed by the Eternal,
he takes account of all his ways.

God knows what your hearts are! What is lofty in the view of man is loathsome in the eyes of God.

Thine eyes are too pure to rest on evil.

Thou searchest me, Eternal One, thou knowest me,
thou knowest me sitting or rising,
my very thoughts thou readest from afar;
walking or resting, I am scanned by thee,
and all my life to thee lies open;
ere ever a word comes to my tongue,
O thou Eternal, 'tis well known to thee.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is far, far beyond me.

Nothing is hidden except to be disclosed,
nothing concealed except to be revealed.

"Lord, you know everything, you can see that I love you."

MORNING

Watch and pray, all of you, that you may not slip into temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.

Keep on the watch then. Be sure of this, that if the householder had known at what watch in the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the watch. So be ready yourselves.

Keep cool, keep awake. Your enemy the devil prowls like a roaring lion, looking out for someone to devour. Resist him; keep your foothold in the faith. The God of all grace who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will repair, recruit, and strengthen you.

Fierce wolves will get in among you, and they will not spare the flock; yes, and men of your own number will arise with perversions of the truth to draw the disciples after them. So be on the alert.

Watch, stand firm in the faith, play the man, be strong!

Never be anxious, but always make your requests known to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; so shall God's peace, that surpasses all our dreams, keep guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

EVENING

The Realm of God is yours.

He said to them, "Let the children come to me, do not stop them: the Realm of God belongs to such as these. I tell you truly, whoever will not submit to the Reign of God like a child, will never get into it at all."

My sons, how difficult it is for those who rely on money to get into the Realm of God! It is easier for a camel to get through a needle's eye than for a rich man to get into the Realm of God.

I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was ill and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you visited me.

In so far as you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even to the least of them, you did it to me.

The Realm of heaven is like a grain of mustard-seed which a man takes and sows in his field. It is less than any seed on earth, but when it grows up it is larger than any plant.

On being asked by the Pharisees when the Reign of God was coming, he answered them, "The Reign of God is not coming as you hope to catch sight of it; no one will say, 'Here it is' or 'There it is,' for the Reign of God is now in your midst."

MORNING

God judges the secret things of men, as my gospel holds, by Jesus Christ.

Let us stop criticizing one another; rather make up your mind never to put any stumbling-block or hindrance in your brother's way.

If your brother is being injured because you eat a certain food, then you are no longer living by the rule of love. Your rights must not get a bad name. The Reign of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, it means righteousness, joy, and peace in the holy Spirit; he who serves Christ on these lines, is acceptable to God and esteemed by men.

Now we have received the Spirit that comes from God, that we may understand what God bestows upon us.

The Father passes judgment on no one; he has committed the judgment to the Son, that all men may honour the Son as they honour the Father. Truly, truly I tell you, he who listens to my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he has already passed from death across to life. The time is coming, it has come already, when the dead will listen to the voice of the Son of God, and those who listen will live.

EVENING

Rely with all your heart on the Eternal,
have mind of him wherever you may go,
and he will clear the road for you.

Be strong, be brave, fear not, for it is the Eternal your God who goes with you, he will never fail you nor forsake you.

It is the Eternal who leads you, he will be with you, he will never fail you nor forsake you: fear not, neither be dismayed.

O thou Eternal, well thou knowest that man's course lies not in his own hands; it is not in a man to have control over his actions. So correct us, O Eternal One, but not too hard; not in a passion of thine anger.

He has said,
Never will I fail you, never will I forsake you.
So that we may say confidently,
The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.
What can men do to me?

Remember your leaders, the men who spoke the word of God to you; look back upon the close of their career, and copy their faith.

We must strip off every handicap, strip off sin with its clinging folds, to run our appointed course with steadiness, our eyes fixed upon Jesus as the pioneer and the perfection of faith.

MORNING

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

The goodness and affection of God our Saviour appeared; and he saved us, not for any good deeds we had done but from his own pity for us. The holy Spirit he poured upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs to the hope of life eternal.

Copy God, then, as his beloved children, and lead lives of love, just as Christ loved you and gave himself up for you to be a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

If you love only those who love you, what credit is that to you?
Why, even sinful men love those who love them.
If you help only those who help you, what merit is that to you?
Why, even sinful men do that.
If you only lend to those from whom you hope to get something, what credit is that to you?
Even sinful men lend to one another, so as to get a fair return.
No, you must love your enemies and help them,
you must lend to them without expecting any return;
then you will have a rich reward,
you will be sons of the Most High—
for he is kind even to the ungrateful and the evil.

EVENING

Here is One Greater than Solomon.

The crowds were astounded at his teaching; for he taught them like an authority, not like their own scribes.

All spoke well of him, marvelling at the gracious words that came from his lips. No one could make any answer to him, and no one ventured to put another question to him.

Jesus knew what they were thinking.

Jesus said to him, "Philip, have I been with you all this time, and yet you do not understand me? He who has seen me has seen the Father."

My teaching is not my own but his who sent me.

Now, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts upon them will be like a sensible man, who built his house on rock. Down came the rain, floods rose, winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, for it was founded upon rock.

To him who is able to keep you from slipping and to make you stand unblemished and exultant before his glory—to the only God, our saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and for all time: Amen.

MORNING

The course of good men, like a ray of dawn,
shines on and on to the full light of day.

The sun shall no more be your light by day,
nor shall the moon shed light on you,
but your unending light shall be the Eternal,
your God shall be your splendour.

You are the elect race, the royal priesthood, the consecrated nation, the People who belong to Him, that you may proclaim the wondrous deeds of Him who has called you from darkness to his wonderful light.

For while once upon a time you were darkness, now in the Lord you are light; lead the life of those who are children of the light (for the fruit of light consists in all that is good and right and true), verifying what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless enterprises of darkness; rather expose them. Whatever the light exposes becomes illuminated—for anything that is illuminated turns into light. Thus it is said,

"Wake up, O sleeper, and rise from the dead;
so Christ will shine upon you."

Be strictly careful then about the life you lead; act like sensible men, not like thoughtless; make the very most of your time.

EVENING

Love lies in this, not in our love for God but in his love for us—in the sending of his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you moved—the spirit which is at present active within those sons of disobedience among whom all of us lived, we as well as you, when we obeyed the passions of our flesh, carrying out the dictates of the flesh and its impulses, when we were objects of God's anger by nature, like the rest of men. But, dead in trespasses as we were, God was so rich in mercy that for his great love to us he made us live together with Christ (it is by grace you have been saved); together with Christ he raised us.

God's love floods our hearts through the holy Spirit which has been given to us. For when we were still in weakness, Christ died in due time for the ungodly. For the ungodly! Why, a man will hardly die for the just—though one might bring oneself to die, if need be, for a good man. But God proves his love for us by this, that Christ died for us when we were still sinners. If we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son when we were enemies, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Beloved, if God had such love for us, we ought to love one another. God no one has ever seen; but if we love one another, then God remains within us, and love for him is complete in us.

MORNING

A forbearing man is better than a fighting man;
he who controls himself is better than a conqueror.

When Christ suffered for you, he left you an example, and you must be following his footsteps.

He committed no sin,
no guile was ever found upon his lips;
he was reviled and he made no retort,
he suffered and he never threatened.

We all make many a slip, but whoever avoids slips of speech is a perfect man; he can bridle the whole of the body as well as the tongue.

The good man brings good out of his good store,
and the evil man brings evil out of his store of evil.

I tell you, on the day of judgment men will have to account for every careless word they utter;
for by your words you will be acquitted,
and by your words you will be condemned.

Set a watch upon my mouth, O thou Eternal,
guard thou the door of my lips.

EVENING

If we hope for something that we do not see, we wait for it patiently.

He will decide disputes of many races,
and arbitrate between strong foreign powers,
till swords are beaten into ploughshares,
spears into pruning-hooks;
no nation draws the sword against another,
no longer shall men learn to fight.

"Ah, Lord Eternal,
thou hast deceived this people utterly!
Thou didst promise peace to them,
and here the sword cuts to the very soul!"

Let every man tell the truth, in dealing with his neighbour, let your decisions be true and for the common good, plot no evil in your hearts against one another, and never give yourselves to any perjury.

In after days it shall be
that the Eternal's hill shall rise,
towering over every hill.

For thou alone art holy.
Yea, all nations shall come and worship before thee.

MORNING

God is light and in him there is no darkness.

In him life lay, and this life was the Light for men: amid the darkness the light shone, but the darkness did not master it.

If we say, "We have fellowship with him," when we live and move in darkness, then we are lying, we are not practising the truth; but if we live and move within the light, as he is within the light, then we have fellowship one with another.

You are all sons of the Light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. Well then, we must not sleep like the rest of men, but be wakeful and sober.

You are the elect race, the People who belong to Him, that you may proclaim the wondrous deeds of Him who has called you from darkness to his wonderful light.

To abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war upon the soul, bear yourselves uprightly before pagans; so that they may glorify God by what they see of your good conduct.

So your light is to shine before men, that they may see the good you do and glorify your Father in heaven.

EVENING

Let everything that breathes praise the Eternal!

The depths of earth lie in his hand,
the mountain-peaks are his.

For all the wild things of the wood are mine,
and cattle in their thousands on the hills;
every bird in the air I know,
I own all roaming creatures on the plains.

Yonder the sea lies, vast and broad,
with its countless swarms,
with creatures small and great,
with fleets of the nautilus,
with leviathan at his play!
The world is full of thy creatures, all looking to thee
for their food in season due.

As I look up to the heavens thy fingers made,
the moon and stars that thou hast shaped,
I ask, "And what is man, that thou should'st think of him?
What is a mortal man, that thou should'st heed him?"

With all my heart I thank thee, O my God,
for ever will I glorify thee.

MORNING

Oh teach us so to count our days,
that we may take it to heart.

Poor man!—his days are like the grass,
he blooms like a flower in the meadow;
at the breath of a breeze it is gone,
and its place never sees it again.
But the Eternal's love is everlasting,
his loyalty goes on to children's children.

Let those who mix in the world live as if they were not engrossed in it, for the present phase of things is passing away.

We know we have crossed from death to life, because we love the brotherhood. We know what love is by this, that He laid down his life for us. But whoever possesses this world's goods, and notices his brother in need, and shuts his heart against him, how can love to God remain in him?

What profit is it for a man to gain the whole world and to forfeit his soul? What could a man offer as an equivalent for his soul?

While daylight lasts, we must be busy with the work of Him who sent me: night comes, when no one can do any work.
Make the very most of your time.

EVENING

The Eternal will guard you from all harm, he will preserve your life.

For two boons from thy hand I cry:
put lies and falsehood far from me,
give neither wealth nor property;
lest I be full and disclaim thee,
saying, "Who is the Eternal?"
or sink to poverty and steal,
discrediting my God.

The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trial.

I will keep you safe through the hour of trial.

We know that the Son of God has come, and has given us insight to know Him who is the Real God; and we are in Him who is real, even in his Son Jesus Christ.
As he suffered by his temptations he is able to help the tempted.

Those who shelter beside him he shields.

MORNING

Like living stones yourselves, be built into a spiritual house.

Here I lay a Stone in Sion, a choice, a precious corner-stone.

The stone that the builders rejected
is the chief stone now of the corner.

Jesus Christ the Nazarene, crucified, raised from the dead. He is the stone despised by you builders,
which has become head of the corner.

The foundation is laid, namely Jesus Christ, and no one can lay any other.

You belong to God's own household, you are a building that rests on the apostles and prophets as its foundation, with Christ Jesus as the corner-stone; in him the whole structure is welded together and rises into a sacred temple in the Lord, and in him you are yourselves built into this to form a habitation for God in the Spirit.

Now, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts upon them will be like a sensible man, who built his house on rock. Down came the rain, floods rose, winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, for it was founded upon rock.

EVENING

You know how gracious our Lord Jesus Christ was.

Rich though he was, he became poor for the sake of you, that by his poverty you might be rich.

He stood up to read—
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me:
for he has consecrated me to preach the gospel to the poor,
he has sent me to proclaim release for captives
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set free the oppressed.
And he proceeded to tell them that "To-day, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

The Logos became flesh and tarried among us; we have seen his glory—glory such as an only son enjoys from his father—seen it to be full of grace and reality. (John testified to him with the cry, "This was he of whom I said, my successor has taken precedence of me, for he preceded me.") For we have all been receiving grace after grace from his fulness; while the Law was given through Moses, grace and reality are ours through Jesus Christ.

MORNING

Aim at that consecration without which no one will ever see the Lord.

If the world hates you, remember it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love what it owned; it is because you do not belong to the world, because I have chosen you from the world, that the world hates you. Remember what I told you, "A servant is not greater than his master." If they persecuted me, they will persecute you.

Keep out of all incongruous ties with unbelievers.
What have righteousness and iniquity in common?
What compact can there be between God's temple and idols?
For we are the temple of the living God—as God has said,
I will dwell and move among them,
I will be their God and they shall be my people.
Therefore come away from these,
separate, saith the Lord,
touch not what is unclean;
then I will receive you.

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of goodness; the Realm of heaven is theirs.

Present suffering, I hold, is a mere nothing compared to the glory that we are to have revealed.

Let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates either flesh or spirit; let us be fully consecrated by reverence for God.

EVENING

Your sorrow will be changed to joy.

The mourning shroud from all mankind,
the veil of sorrow from all nations,
shall he strip away.

These are the people who have come out of the great Distress, who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
Therefore they are now before the throne of God,
serving him day and night within his temple,
and he who is seated on the throne shall overshadow them with his care.
Never again will they be hungry, never again athirst,
never shall the sun strike them, nor any scorching heat.

Jesus, in order to reach his own appointed joy, steadily endured the cross. So keep your own hearts from fainting and failing.

MORNING

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find your souls refreshed;
my yoke is kindly and my burden light.

Do you not know you are servants of the master you obey, of the master to whom you yield yourselves obedient, whether it is Sin, whose service ends in death, or Obedience, whose service ends in righteousness? Sin's wage is death, but God's gift is life eternal in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If anyone serves me, let him follow me,
and where I am, there shall my servant be also:
if anyone serves me,
my Father will honour him.

For love to God means the keeping of his commands. And his commands are not irksome.

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, good temper, kindliness, generosity, fidelity.

As we live by the Spirit, let us be guided by the Spirit; let us have no vanity, no provoking, no envy of one another.

O thou Eternal, our own God,
others have been ruling us;
but thine authority alone
to-day we own.

EVENING

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Do not be downcast, for to rejoice in the Eternal is your strength.

Strengthen your hands, the Lord of hosts declares, you who have been so encouraged by the prophets.

Put heart into the listless,
and brace all weak-kneed souls,
tell men with fluttering hearts,
"Have courage, never fear;
here comes your God,
he comes himself to save you!"

Courage, says the Eternal! Courage, do your work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts.

Never let us grow tired of doing what is right, for if we do not faint we shall reap our harvest at the opportune season. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men and in particular to the household of the faith.

MORNING

The slight trouble of the passing hour results in a solid glory past all comparison, for those of us whose eyes are on the unseen, not on the seen; for the seen is transient, the unseen eternal.

Though the fields give us no food,
though the folds have lost their flocks,
yet in the Eternal we will find our joy,
we will rejoice in the God who saves us.
Though nations rage, and realms be shaken,
  though his thunders make the world dissolve:
    the Lord of Hosts is at our side,
    the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Not only so, but we triumph even in our troubles, knowing that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope—a hope which never disappoints us, since God's love floods our hearts through the holy Spirit which has been given to us.

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy of suffering dishonour for the sake of the Name.

Do not be surprised at the ordeal that has come to test you. You are sharing what Christ suffered; so rejoice in it, that you may also rejoice and exult when his glory is revealed.

EVENING

O thou Eternal, be my help!

For thou art a fortress to me,
  a refuge in my day of danger.

When I was prospering, I thought
  I never would be shaken;
but when thy favour was withdrawn,
  I fell into dismay.
I cried to thee, Eternal One,
  appealing to my God.
And thou didst change my mourning into dancing,
  stripping my sackcloth, girdling me with joy.

Many long for a sight of prosperous days;
  "Only look up and smile on us, O Eternal!"
My heart thou hast already given more joy
  than theirs who harvest corn and store new wine
So quietly I lay me down to sleep,
  for even alone, thanks to thee, I am secure.

MORNING

Be hospitable to each other, and never grudge it.

The believers all kept together; they shared all they had with one another, they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds among all, as any one might be in need. Day after day they resorted with one accord to the temple and broke bread together in their own homes; they ate with a glad and simple heart, praising God and looked on with favour by all the people. Meantime the Lord added the saved daily to their number.

Whoever gives you a cup of water, because you belong to Christ, I tell you truly, he shall not miss his reward.

He who receives a prophet because he is a prophet,
will receive a prophet's reward.

God is not unfair; he will not forget what you have done, nor the love you have shown for his sake in ministering, as you still do, to the saints.

EVENING

The deer is panting for the stream,
and, O God, I pant for thee.
I am athirst for God, the living God.

O God, we have heard with our ears,
our fathers have told us the tale,
of thy doings in ancient years.
On thee our fathers did rely,
relied, and thou didst rescue them;
they cried to thee and they were safe,
relied on thee and were not disappointed.

Let me see thy majesty!

Be strong, be brave, fear not, for the Eternal your God who goes with you, he will never fail you nor forsake you.

For God who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," has shone within my heart to illuminate men with the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Christ.

Father, it is my will that these, thy gift to me, may be beside me where I am, to behold my glory which thou hast given me, because thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O just Father, though the world has not known thee, I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me; so have I declared, so will I declare, thy Name to them, that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

MORNING

As heaven is higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways.

For my plans are not like your plans,
nor your ways like my ways.
The cry of a man weary with the quest for God:
"I am weary, O God,
weary and worn in vain,
dull as a clod,
with no quick brain.
I am no master of thought,
of the Deity I know nought.
Who ever climbed to heaven and then came down?"

The Logos existed in the very beginning,
the Logos was with God,
the Logos was divine.
In him life lay,
and this life was the Light for men:
amid the darkness the Light shone,
but the darkness did not master it.

Nobody has ever seen God, but God has been unfolded by the divine One, the only Son, who lies upon the Father's breast.

Those who are doomed to perish find the story of the cross "sheer folly," but it means the power of God for those whom he saves. For when the world with all its wisdom failed to know God in his wisdom, God resolved to save believers by the "sheer folly" of the Christian message.

EVENING

If anyone is athirst, let him come to me and drink.

My people have done double wrong,
they have forsaken me, the reservoir of fresh water,
and hewn out cisterns for themselves,
leaky cisterns that cannot hold any water!

Jesus answered, "Anyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give him will never thirst any more; the water that I shall give him will turn into a spring of water welling up to life eternal."

For John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the holy Spirit.

He who believes in me—out of his body, as scripture says, streams of living water will flow (he meant by this the Spirit which those who believed in him were to receive).

MORNING

Do not imitate evil but good; he who does good belongs to God, he who does evil has never seen God.

Do you not know that a morsel of dough will leaven the whole lump? Clean out the old dough that you may be a fresh lump. For you are free from the old leaven. So let us celebrate our festival, not with any old leaven, not with vice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of innocence and integrity.

Jesus said to them, "See and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

Make no mistake about this: "bad company is the ruin of good character."

He left you an example, and you must be following in his footsteps.

He told them another parable. "The Realm of heaven," he said, "is like dough, which a woman took and buried in three pecks of flour, till all of it was leavened."

Keep in mind whatever is true, whatever is worthy, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is attractive, whatever is high-toned, all excellence, all merit.

Never let evil get the better of you; get the better of evil by doing good.

EVENING

The man Christ Jesus.

Since the children then share blood and flesh, he himself participated in their nature, so that by dying he might crush him who wields the power of death (that is to say, the devil) and release from thraldom those who lay under a life-long fear of death. He had to resemble his brothers in every respect, in order to prove a merciful and faithful high priest in things divine, to expiate the sins of the People. It is as he suffered by his temptations that he is able to help the tempted.

Though he was divine by nature, he did not snatch at equality with God but emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant; born in human guise and appearing in human form, he humbly stooped in his obedience even to die, and to die upon the cross.

It is no weak Christ you have to do with, but a Christ of power. For though he was crucified in his weakness, he lives by the power of God.

Jesus Christ is always the same, yesterday, to-day, and for ever.

MORNING

Faithful is the God who called you to participate in his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

His power divine has bestowed upon us every requisite for life and godliness by the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who remains in me, as I in him, bears rich fruit (because apart from me you can do nothing).

As you bear rich fruit and prove yourselves my disciples, my Father is glorified.

You have not chosen me, it is I who have chosen you, so that the Father may grant you whatever you ask in my name.

Reach maturity, the full measure of development which belongs to the fulness of Christ.

We are to hold by the truth, and by our love to grow up wholly into Him. For He, Christ, is the head.

And may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope, graciously encourage your hearts and strengthen them for all good in deed and word.

EVENING

The Eternal is my allotted share, I say;
therefore I will hope in him.

God says, "Through all the long delay
I am still ruling in my justice;
when men in any panic melt away,
I still uphold the order of the world.
I tell the boastful, 'Do not boast,'
I tell the impious, 'Never flaunt your power.' "

My welfare rests on thee alone;
in the saints of the land, thy noble followers,
  is all my delight.
Thou art what I obtain from life, O thou Eternal,
  thou thyself art my share.

Accept the vows I breathe to thee, and teach me thy decrees.

Ungodly men set snares for me, but I never give up thine orders.

I have a lasting heritage in thy commands, they are my heart's delight.

MORNING

You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right! that is what I am.

I call you servants no longer; I call you friends. Appointing you to go and bear fruit, fruit that lasts. This is what I command you, to love one another.

We have believed the love God has for us. God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God. Love is complete with us when in this world we are living as He lives. We love, because He loved us first.

For Christ's sake I have learned to count my former gains a loss; indeed I count anything a loss, compared to the supreme value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

He who loves his life loses it, and he who cares not for his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

If anyone serves me, let him follow me,
and where I am, there shall my servant also be:
if anyone serves me,
my Father will honour him.

Now that you have passed into the service of God, your gain is consecration, and the end of that is life eternal.

EVENING

Then I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord! let them rest from their toils; for what they have done goes with them.'"

The last drops of my own sacrifice are falling; my time to go has come. I have fought in the good fight; I have run my course; I have kept the faith. Now the crown of a good life awaits me, with which the Lord, that just Judge, will reward me on the great Day—and not only me but all who have loved and longed for his appearance.

This is the Eternal's way,
in whose control lies every living soul,
and the whole life of man.

For none of us lives to himself,
and none of us dies to himself;
if we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord.

Thus we are the Lord's whether we live or die; it was for this that Christ died and rose and came to life, to be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Let not your hearts be disquieted or timid.

MORNING

Trust God, he will never let you be tempted beyond what you can stand.

We triumph even in our troubles, knowing that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope—a hope which never disappoints us. God's love floods our hearts through the holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Discipline always seems for the time to be a thing of pain, not of joy; but those who are trained by it reap the fruit of it afterwards in the peace of an upright life.

We call the steadfast happy; you have heard of the steadfastness of Job and you have seen the end of the Lord with him, seen that the Lord is very compassionate and pitiful.

Do not be surprised at the ordeal that has come to test you, as though some foreign thing befell you. You are sharing what Christ suffered; so rejoice in it, that you may also rejoice and exult when his glory is revealed.

EVENING

I will be with you when you pass through waters,
no rivers shall overflow you.

I pray to thee;
in thy great generosity, O God, do thou accept me;
answer me with thy loyal aid—
let not the flood sweep over me,
let not the depths drown me;
let not death close over me.
Answer me, O Eternal, in thy love,
in thy vast pity turn to me.

The floods may storm aloud,
the floods may storm and thunder;
but high above the roaring billows,
the Eternal stands supreme.
Thine own authority will never fail.

Let billows roar and foam,
let mountains shake under the storm:
the Lord of Hosts is at our side,
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

But when he saw the strength of the wind he was afraid and began to sink. "Lord," he shouted, "save me." Jesus at once stretched his hand out and caught him, saying, "How little you trust me! Why did you doubt?"

MORNING

Thy law is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Choose instruction rather than silver,
  and knowledge rather than rare gold;
for wisdom is better than rubies,
  no treasure is equal to her.
Rely with all your heart on the Eternal
  and never lean on your own insight;
have mind of him wherever you may go
  and he will clear the road for you.

These Signs are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and believing may have life through his Name.

He your Teacher never leaves you now;
  you see your Teacher for yourselves,
and when you swerve to right or left,
  you hear a Voice behind you whispering,
"This is the way, walk here."

Thou holdest my right hand,
guiding me with thy counsel,
  leading me after thyself by the hand.

EVENING

He who believes in him will never be disappointed.

So quietly I lay me down to sleep,
  for even alone, thanks to thee, I am secure.

The people who were dwelling in the darkness
  have now seen a great light;
those who were living in a land of shadows,
  upon them light has shone.
Thou hast richly given them gladness,
  and an ample joy;
in thy presence they rejoice.

And his name is to be called Immanuel (which may be translated, God is with us).

Christ loved you and gave himself up for you to be a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

For though you were dead in your trespasses, He made you live.

MORNING

Attested by the Law and the prophets, it is a righteousness of God which comes by believing in Jesus Christ.

The goodness and affection of God our Saviour appeared; and he saved us, not for any good deeds we had done but from his own pity for us, by the water that means regeneration and renewal under the holy Spirit which he poured upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs to the hope of life eternal.

Treat one another with the same spirit as you experience in Christ Jesus. Though he was divine by nature, he did not set store upon equality with God, but emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant; born in human guise and appearing in human form, he humbly stooped in his obedience even to die, and to die upon the cross. Therefore God raised him high and conferred on him a Name above all names.

I give you a new command, to love one another—as I have loved you, you are to love one another; by this everyone will recognize that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.

Lead lives of love, just as Christ loved you and gave himself up for you to be a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

EVENING

Those who are sowing in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a life of hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, born to an unscathed, inviolate, unfading inheritance. You will rejoice then, though for the passing moment you may need to suffer various trials; that is only to prove your faith is sterling (far more precious than gold which is perishable and yet is tested by fire), and it redounds to your praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Greet it as pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter any sort of trial, sure that the sterling temper of your faith produces endurance; only, let your endurance be a finished product, so that you may be finished and complete, with never a defect.

You have received no slavish spirit that would make you relapse into fear; you have received the Spirit of sonship. And when we cry, "Abba! Father!", it is this Spirit testifying along with our own spirit that we are children of God; and if children, heirs as well, heirs of God, heirs along with Christ.

MORNING

For the Lord disciplines the man he loves, and scourges every son whom he receives.

As he sat among the ashes, his wife said to him, "Still holding to your loyalty? Curse God, though you die for it!" But he told her, "You are talking like an impious fool. Are we to take good from God's hand, and not evil too?" In all this Job sinned not with his lips.

These are the people who have come out of the great Distress, who washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

We had fathers of our flesh to discipline us, and we yielded to them! Shall we not far more submit to the Father of our spirits, and so live? Their discipline was inflicted at their pleasure, he disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his own holiness. Those who are trained by it reap the fruit of it afterwards in the peace of an upright life.

Learn to pay the same tax of suffering as the rest of your brotherhood throughout the world. Once you have suffered for a little, the God of all grace who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will repair and recruit and strengthen you. The dominion is his for ever and ever.

EVENING

Quietly I lay me down to sleep,
for even alone, thanks to thee, I am secure.

Finally, brothers, keep in mind whatever is true, whatever is worthy, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is attractive, whatever is high-toned, all excellence, all merit.

Never be troubled about to-morrow;
to-morrow will take care of itself.
The day's own trouble is enough for the day.

Never be anxious, but always make your requests known to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; so shall God's peace, that surpasses all our dreams, keep guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

You can rest unafraid,
you can lie down to a sweet sleep;
never need you fear,
for the Eternal will be your protection.

MORNING

For on behalf of Christ you have the favour of suffering no less than of believing in him.

I am controlled by the love of Christ, convinced that as One has died for all, then all have died, and that he died for all in order to have the living live no longer for themselves but for him who died and rose for them.

He said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross day after day, and so follow me."

I tell you truly, no one has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, who does not get a hundred times as much—in this present world homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and lands, together with persecutions, and in the world to come life eternal. Many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

If you are denounced for the sake of Christ, you are blessed; for then the Spirit of glory and power, the Spirit of God himself, is resting on you. If a man suffers for being a Christian, he should glorify God.

EVENING

Oh, for the heavens to rend,
oh, for thee to descend,
till the very mountains shake before thee.

In bygone ages he allowed all nations to go their own ways, though as the bountiful Giver he did not leave himself without a witness, giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, giving you food and joy to your heart's content.

A strong, fierce wind tore the mountain, crashing the rocks before the Eternal; but the Eternal was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake, but the Eternal was not in the earthquake; after the earthquake a fire, but the Eternal was not in the fire; after the fire the breath of a light whisper. As soon as Elijah heard that, he wrapped his face in his mantle.

On being asked by the Pharisees when the Reign of God was coming, he answered them. "The Reign of God is not coming as you hope to catch sight of it; no one will say, 'Here it is' or 'There it is,' for the Reign of God is now in your midst."

Nobody has ever seen God, but God has been unfolded by the divine One, the only Son, who lies upon the Father's breast.

On those who have accepted him, however, he has conferred the right of being children of God, that is, on those who believe in his Name, who owe this birth of theirs to God.

MORNING

Never let us grow tired of doing what is right, for if we do not faint we shall reap our harvest at the opportune season.

Take care not to practise your charity before men in order to be noticed.
When you give alms,
never let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
so as to keep your alms secret; then your Father who sees what is secret will reward you openly.

Then shall the King say to those on his right, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, come into your inheritance in the realm prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was ill and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you visited me."

Sow justice for yourselves, and reap a harvest of God's love.
Mark this: he who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows generously will reap a generous harvest.

EVENING

He is the Eternal who heals you.

He pardons all your sins,
and all your sicknesses he heals,
he saves your life from death,
he crowns you with his love and pity.

He gathers the outcasts,
he heals the broken-hearted
and binds up their wounds.

The saving Sun shall rise with healing in his rays, and you shall leap like calves freed from the pen.

And moonlight glows like sunlight,
and the sun shines sevenfold strong,
on that Day when the Eternal heals his bruised folk,
when he binds up their wounds.

Blessed are the mourners!
they will be consoled.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me:
he has sent me to proclaim release for captives
and recovery of sight for the blind.
To-day, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.

MORNING

Hold your ground immovable . . .

He said to another man, "Follow me"; but he said, "Let me go and bury my father first of all." Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead; you go and spread the news of the Reign of God." Another man also said to him, "I will follow you, Lord. But let me first say good-bye to my people at home." Jesus said to him, "No one is any use to the Reign of God who puts his hand to the plough and then looks behind him."

The doubtful man is like surge of the sea whirled and swayed by the wind; double-minded, wavering at every turn!

Pray Him out of the wealth of his glory to grant you a mighty increase of strength by his Spirit in the inner man. Be fixed and founded in love.

Men will lay hands on you and persecute you, handing you over to synagogues and prisons; you will be dragged before kings and governors for the sake of my name. That will turn out an opportunity for you to bear witness. I will give you words and wisdom that not one of your opponents will be able to meet or refute.

EVENING

O God, what mysteries I find in thee!
How vast the number of thy purposes!

As for me, I am weak and wretched;
yet the Eternal will take thought for me.

God has chosen what is foolish in the world
to shame the wise;
God has chosen what is weak in the world
to shame what is strong.

This is the God to whom you owe your being in Christ Jesus, whom God has made our "Wisdom," that is, our righteousness and consecration and redemption; so that, as it is written, let him who boasts boast of the Lord.

For when we were still in weakness, Christ died in due time for the ungodly. For the ungodly! Why, a man will hardly die for the just—though one might bring oneself to die, if need be, for a good man. But God proves his love for us by this, that Christ died for us when we were still sinners.

How inscrutable his judgments! How mysterious his methods! All comes from him, all lives by him, all ends in him.

MORNING

He knows the very secrets of the heart.

Lord, all my longing is well known to thee,
thou art no stranger to my sighs.

Thou knowest my path,
Eternal One, I cry to thee;
I say, "Thou art my help."

The Spirit assists us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray aright, but the Spirit pleads for us with sighs that are beyond words, and He who searches the human heart knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, since the Spirit pleads before God for the saints.

God's sacrifice is a soul with its evil crushed:
a heart broken with penitence, O God, never wilt thou despise.
Search me, O God, and know my heart,
test me and try my thoughts.
See if I am taking a wrong course,
and do thou lead me on the lines of life eternal.

EVENING

What is impossible for men is possible for God.

Why should you consider it incredible that God raises the dead, that the Christ is capable of suffering, and that he should be the first to rise from the dead and bring the message of light to the People and to the Gentiles?

It is he who gives life and breath and all things to all men. All nations he has created from a common origin, to dwell all over the earth.

"Abba, Father," he said, "thou canst do anything."

He said to them, "Why are you afraid? How little you trust God!"

Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we need not say a word in answer to that question. There is a God able to save us, the God whom we serve. Understand this, O king, we will not serve your gods, and we will not bow down before the golden image which you have erected."

The blind men came up to him, and Jesus asked them, "Do you believe I can do this?" They said, "Yes, sir." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "As you believe, so your prayer is granted," and their eyes were opened.

Thou canst do anything,
nothing is too hard for thee.

MORNING

The first thing in knowledge is reverence for the Eternal,
to know the Deity is what knowledge means.

Choose instruction rather than silver,
and knowledge rather than rare gold.
To reverence the Eternal is to hate evil:
pride, arrogance, an evil life,
and lying lips—I hate them.

A word from the Eternal. A wise man must not glory in his wisdom, nor a warrior in his strength, nor the rich man in his riches; he who glories is to glory in this, that he has insight into me, that he knows I am the Eternal, dealing in kindness, justice, and goodness upon earth—for these are my delight.

Those who are doomed to perish find the story of the cross "sheer folly," but it means the power of God for those whom he saves. For when the world with all its wisdom failed to know God in his wisdom, God resolved to save believers by the "sheer folly" of the Christian message. Jews demand miracles and Greeks want wisdom, but our message is Christ the crucified.

This is the God to whom you owe your being in Christ Jesus, whom God has made our "Wisdom," that is, our righteousness and consecration and redemption.

EVENING

The longsuffering of our Lord means salvation.

Where is His promised advent? Since the day our fathers fell asleep, things remain exactly as they were from the beginning of creation.

Beloved, you must not ignore this one fact, that with the Lord a single day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a single day. The Lord is not slow with what he promises, according to certain people's idea of slowness; no, he is longsuffering for your sake, he does not wish any to perish but all to betake them to repentance.

He told them another parable. "The Realm of heaven," he said, "is like dough, which a woman took and buried in three pecks of flour, till all of it was leavened."

He told them, "It is not for you to know the course and periods of time that the Father has fixed by his own authority. You will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses to the end of the earth."

Are you slighting all his wealth of kindness, forbearance, and patience? Do you not know that his kindness is meant to make you repent?

MORNING

Each of us then will have to answer for himself to God.

Steadfast—he rules aright,
his methods all in order due,
a God trusty and wholly true,
upright and honest!

There is no partiality about God.
God judges the secret things of men, by Jesus Christ.

Nothing is hidden that shall not be revealed,
or concealed that shall not be made known.
All you utter in the dark will be heard in the light.

Have no fear of those who kill the body but after that can do no more; fear Him who after he has killed has power to cast you into Gehenna.
Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings?
Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.
Fear not, you are worth far more than sparrows.

Sin's wage is death, but God's gift is life eternal in Christ Jesus our Lord.

EVENING

I will answer his cry and be with him in trouble.

Faithful in all his dealings is the Eternal,
loving in all he does;
the Eternal is near all who call on him,
who call on him sincerely.

God is a shelter and stronghold for us,
we shall find him very near;
therefore we never fear,
though earth be overset.

Who is to accuse the elect of God? When God acquits, who shall condemn? What can ever part us from Christ's love? Can anguish or calamity or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or the sword?

No, in all this we are more than conquerors, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, no powers of the Height or of the Depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to part us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All the time I will be with you, to the very end of the world.

MORNING

Humble yourselves before the Lord,
and then he will raise you up.

Anyone who is defiant is loathsome to the Eternal;
be sure of this, he shall not go unpunished.

Then they shall say no more,
"The fathers ate sour grapes,
and the children's teeth are on edge";
but each shall die for his own sin,
and he who eats the sour grapes,
his own teeth shall be set on edge.

After he had spent his all, a severe famine set in throughout that land, and he began to feel in want; so he went and attached himself to a citizen of that land, who sent him to his fields to feed swine. But when he came to his senses, he said, "How many hired men of my father have more than enough to eat, and here am I, perishing of hunger! I will be up and off to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I don't deserve to be called your son any more.' "

Under thy chastening I have been chastened,
like an unbroken colt;
bring me back, let me return,
for thou art the Eternal, my God.

EVENING

He humbly stooped in his obedience even to die, and to die upon the cross.

He was despised and shunned by men,
a man of pain, who knew what sickness was.

They led him to the place called Golgotha.
Then they crucified him.
Those who passed by scoffed at him, nodding at him in derision.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing."

The army captain, who stood facing him, said, "This man was certainly a son of God!"

He was wounded because we had sinned,
'twas our misdeeds that crushed him;
'twas for our welfare that he was chastised,
the blows that fell to him have brought us healing.

Jews demand miracles and Greeks want wisdom, but our message is Christ the crucified—a Christ who is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

MORNING

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

He rescued righteous Lot who was sore burdened by the immoral behaviour of the lawless—then be sure the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trial.

Everyone is tempted as he is beguiled and allured by his own desire; then Desire conceives and breeds Sin, while Sin matures and gives birth to Death.

When an unclean spirit leaves a man, it roams through dry places in search of ease. As it finds none, then it says, "I will go back to the house I left"; and when it comes it finds the house clean and all in order. Then off it goes to fetch seven other spirits worse than itself; they go in and dwell there, and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

Keep in mind whatever is true, whatever is worthy, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is attractive, whatever is high-toned, all excellence, all merit, praying Him out of the wealth of his glory to grant you a mighty increase of strength by his Spirit in the inner man.

EVENING

Body and soul may fail,
but God my strength is mine,
my own for evermore.

Man born of woman
lives but a few days and is full of trouble;
he flowers and fades,
he is a fleeting shadow.

But we all mirror the glory of the Lord with face unveiled, and so we are being transformed into the same likeness as himself. I never lose heart. For God who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," has shone within my heart.

But I possess this treasure in a frail vessel of earth, to show that the transcending power belongs to God, not to myself; on every side I am harried but not hemmed in, perplexed but not despairing, persecuted but not abandoned.

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then it follows that by means of Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. So we shall be with the Lord for ever.

MORNING

Whatever be your task, work at it heartily, as servants of the Lord and not of men; remember, you are to receive from the Lord the inheritance which is your due.

A man slack at his work
is as bad as a waster.

Take therefore the two hundred and fifty pounds away from him; give it to the servant who had the twelve hundred.
For to everyone who has, shall more be given and richly given;
but from him who has nothing, even what he has shall be taken.

Our talents differ with the grace that is given us; if the talent is that of prophecy, let us employ it in proportion to our faith; if it is practical service, let us mind our service; the teacher must mind his teaching, the speaker his words of counsel; the contributor must be liberal, the superintendent must be in earnest, the sick visitor must be cheerful. Let your love be a real thing, with a loathing for evil and a bent for what is good.

It is my heart's desire that each of you would prove keen upon realizing your full hope to the very end, so that, instead of being slack, you may imitate those who inherit the promises by their steadfast faith.

EVENING

I will bless the Eternal at all times,
his praise shall be continually on my lips.

Like our fathers, we have sinned,
we have done evil, have done wickedly.

He treats us not according to our sins,
he deals not with us as our guilt deserves;
but, high as heaven is over earth,
so vast his love is to his worshippers;
as far as east from the west,
so far he puts our sins away from us.

Look at the wild birds;
they sow not, they reap not, they gather nothing in granaries,
and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not worth more than birds?

As a father pities his children,
so the Eternal pities his worshippers.

Never be anxious, but always make your requests known to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving.

Give thanks to the Eternal!—he is good,
his kindness never fails.

MORNING

Forgive us our debts
as we ourselves have forgiven our debtors.

"Lord, how often is my brother to sin against me and be forgiven? Up to seven times?" Jesus said, "Seven times? I say, seventy times seven!"

If you remember that your brother has any grievance against you, leave your gift at the very altar and go away; first be reconciled to your brother, then come back and offer your gift.

The Realm of heaven may be compared to a king who resolved to settle accounts with his servants. A debtor who owed him three million pounds fell down and prayed him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you it all." And out of pity for that servant, his master released him.

But as that servant went away, he met one of his fellow-servants who owed him twenty pounds, and seizing him by the throat he said, "Pay your debt!"

Then his master summoned him and said, "I discharged all that debt for you, because you implored me. Ought you not to have had mercy on your fellow-servant, as I had on you?"

As God's own chosen, then, as consecrated and beloved, be clothed with compassion, kindliness, humility, gentleness, and good temper—forbear and forgive each other in any case of complaint; as Christ forgave you, so must you forgive.

EVENING

But when he came to his senses he said, "I will be up and off to my father."

We grope, like a blind man along the wall,
  we live in darkness like the dead.

For our transgressions before thee are many.
  Sins we know well—
rebellions, treachery to the Eternal,
talking perversely and defiantly,
  telling lies from our heart.

The Eternal's hand is not too short to save.
Let guilty men give up their ways,
  and evil men their purposes;
let them turn back to the Eternal,
  who will pity them,
turn back to our God, for he
  will pardon them abundantly.

I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over a single sinner who repents.

MORNING

Man is not to live on bread alone,
but on every word that issues from the mouth of God.

Then God the Eternal moulded man from the dust of the ground, breathing into his nostrils the breath of life; this was how man became a living being.

Life is something more than food,
and the body is something more than clothes.

Then said Jesus, "It is my Father who gives you the real bread from heaven. I am the bread of life; he who comes to me will never be hungry."

What human being can understand the thoughts of a man,
except the man's own inner spirit?
So too no one understands the thoughts of God,
except the Spirit of God.
Now we have received the Spirit—not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that comes from God, that we may understand what God bestows upon us.

EVENING

The Eternal is my light and aid;
whom shall I fear?

Do not call out "Danger!"
when this people calls out "Danger!"
Have no fear of what they fear,
never dread it.
The danger lies with the Lord of hosts;
'tis he whom you should fear.

Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, there is a God able to save us, the God whom we serve. But even if he does not, understand this, O king, we will not serve your gods and we will not bow down before the golden image which you have erected."

They were astonished to notice how outspoken Peter and John were, and to discover that they were uncultured persons and mere outsiders; they recognized them as having been companions of Jesus.

Rascals will run away, though none pursues them;
good men are as bold as lions.

He has said,
Never will I fail you, never will I forsake you.
So that we may say confidently,
The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.
What can men do to me?

MORNING

Keep your life free from the love of money; be content with what you have, for He has said,

Never will I fail you, never will I forsake you.

They came up and said to him, "Teacher, we know you are sincere and fearless; you never court human favour, you teach the Way of God honestly. Is it right to pay taxes to Cæsar or not? Are we to pay, or are we not to pay?" But he saw their trick and said to them, "Why tempt me? Bring me a shilling. Let me see it." So they brought one. He said, "Whose likeness, whose inscription is this?" "Cæsar's," they said. Jesus said to them, "Give Cæsar what belongs to Cæsar, give God what belongs to God."

He said to them, "See and keep clear of covetousness in every shape and form, for a man's life is not part of his possessions because he has ample wealth."

For love of money is the root of all mischief; it is by aspiring to be rich that certain individuals have gone astray from the faith and found themselves pierced with many a pang of remorse.

Now if God so clothes grass which blooms to-day in the field and is thrown to-morrow into the furnace, how much more will he clothe you! O men, how little you trust him! So do not seek food and drink and be worried; pagans make food and drink their aim in life, but your Father knows quite well you need that; only seek his Realm, and it will be yours over and above.

EVENING

The lamb of God, who is to remove the sin of the world!

Through him we have got access to this grace where we have our standing, and triumph in the hope of God's glory.

Like sheep we had all gone astray,
  we had each taken his own way,
and on him the Eternal laid
  the guilt of all of us.

As we are justified by faith, then, let us enjoy the peace we have with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is how the love of God has appeared for us, by God sending his only Son into the world, so that by him we might live. Love lies in this, not in our love for God but in his love for us—in the sending of his Son.

Have confidence to enter the holy Presence in virtue of the blood of Jesus, by the fresh, living way which he has inaugurated for us through the veil (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart, in absolute assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled clean from a bad conscience, and our bodies washed in pure water; let us hold the hope we avow without wavering (for we can rely on him who gave us the Promise).

MORNING

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty.

I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne; his trailing robes spread over the temple-floor, and seraphs hovered round him.

They kept calling to one another,
"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts,
his majestic splendour fills the whole earth!"

Then I said, "Alas! I am undone! man of unclean lips that I am, living among a people of unclean lips!"

If we say, "We are not guilty," we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us; if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, he forgives our sins and cleanses us from all iniquity.

He disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his own holiness.

For we are the temple of the Living God—as God has said,
I will dwell and move among them,
touch not what is unclean;
then I will receive you.

As these great promises are ours, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates either flesh or spirit; let us be fully consecrated by reverence for God.

EVENING

For ours is no high priest who cannot have sympathy with our weaknesses.

Jesus called his disciples and said, "I am sorry for the crowd; they have been three days with me now, and they have nothing to eat. I will not send them away starving, in case they faint on the road."

As he saw the crowds he was moved with pity for them; they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.

He withdrew by boat to a desert place in private; but the crowds heard of it and followed him on foot from the towns. Out of pity for them he healed their sick folk.

Simon, Simon, Satan has claimed the right to sift you all like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail.

As he was near the gate of the town, there was a dead man being carried out; he was the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And when the Lord saw her, he felt pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep."

Can a woman forget her infant,
forget to pity her babe?
Yet even were a mother to forget,
never will I forget you.

MORNING

Like newly-born children, thirst for the pure spiritual milk to make you grow up to salvation.

The Eternal's law is a sound law,
  reviving life;
the Eternal's is a trusty witness,
  that instructs the open-minded;
the Eternal's orders are just,
  a joy to the heart;
the Eternal's command is clear,
  a light to the mind;
the Eternal's faith is a clean faith,
  it will last for ever.

The sacred writings that can impart saving wisdom by faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for amendment, and for moral discipline, to make the man of God proficient and equip him for good work of every kind.

Keep in mind whatever is true, whatever is worthy, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is attractive, whatever is high-toned, all excellence, all merit.

Thy laws are ever just; let me know them and so live.

EVENING

We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Oh, sing a new song to the Eternal,
  for marvels he has done,
his right hand has won victory
  by his majestic power.
Into the weary he puts power,
  and adds new strength to the weak.

His commands are not irksome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. Our faith, that is the conquest which conquers the world.

I tell you truly, if you had faith the size of a grain of mustard-seed, nothing would be impossible for you.

In Him who strengthens me I am able for anything.

Eyes fixed upon Jesus as the pioneer and the perfection of faith.

The victory is ours, thank God! He makes it ours by our Lord Jesus Christ.

For I am certain that nothing will be able to part us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Now to him who is able to keep you from slipping and to make you stand unblemished and exultant before his glory—to the only God, our saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and for all time.

MORNING

The vision has its own appointed hour,
it ripens, it will flower;
if it be long, then wait,
for it is sure, and it will not be late.

He told them, "It is not for you to know the course and periods of time that the Father has fixed."

Take care, keep awake and pray. It is like a man leaving his house to go abroad; he puts his servants in charge, each with his work to do, and he orders the porter to keep watch.

The Lord is not slow with what he promises, according to certain people's idea of slowness; no, he is longsuffering for your sake, he does not wish any to perish but all to betake them to repentance.

Though I am the foremost of sinners, I obtained mercy, for the purpose of furnishing Christ Jesus with a supreme proof of his utter patience, a typical illustration of it for all who were to believe in him and gain eternal life.

Well then, my beloved brothers, hold your ground, immovable; abound in work for the Lord at all times, for you may be sure that in the Lord your labour is never thrown away.

EVENING

He also told them a parable about the need of always praying and never losing heart.

You ask and you do not get it, because you ask with the wicked intention of spending it on your pleasures.

The confidence we have in him is this, that he listens to us whenever we ask anything in accordance with his will; and if we know he listens to whatever we ask, we know we obtain the requests we have made to him.

The Eternal sets his face against evildoers,
but the Eternal turns his eyes towards good men,
his ears are open to their cry.

Ask and the gift will be yours,
seek and you will find,
knock and the door will open to you.
If for all your evil you know to give your children what is good,
how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him?

For I am going to the Father, and I will do whatever you ask in my name.

MORNING

Thy Reign begin,
thy will be done
on earth as in heaven!

He said, "It is with the Realm of God as when a man has sown seed on earth; he sleeps at night and rises by day, and the seed sprouts and shoots up —he knows not how. It is like a grain of mustard-seed—less than any seed on earth, when it is sown on earth; but once sown it springs up to be larger than any plant, throwing out such big branches that wild birds can roost under its shadow."

You have a saying, have you not, "Four months yet, then harvest?" Look round, I tell you; see, the fields are white for harvesting!

"Not by fighting, not by force, but by my spirit!"
so the Lord of hosts declares.

Thus "faith and hope and love last on, these three," but the greatest of all is love.

The Reign of God is now in your midst.

EVENING

The day I am afraid,
I put my trust in thee.

For he hides me within his own pavilion,
he shelters me within his shrine.

The dull man does not see,
the senseless does not understand,
that when bad men thrive like grass,
and evildoers flourish,
'tis only to be rooted up for ever,
while thou art supreme ever, O Eternal.

Why should mortal men complain,
when they are punished for their sins?
Let us scan and search our lives,
let us return to the Eternal,
lifting our hearts up with our hands,
to God in heaven;
"The sin is ours, we have rebelled."
Turn to me and you are saved,
all ends of the earth!

All ends of the earth shall see
how our God gains the victory.

For he must reign until all his foes are put under his feet.

MORNING

We can say confidently,
The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.
What can men do to me?

I set no value on my own life as compared with the joy of finishing my course and fulfilling the commission I received from the Lord Jesus to attest the gospel of the grace of God.

Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered him, "You are a blessed man, Simon Barjona, for it was my Father in heaven, not flesh and blood, that revealed this to you. Now I tell you, Peter is your name, and on this rock I will build my church; the powers of Hades shall not succeed against it."

The very hairs on your head are all numbered;
fear not, you are worth far more than sparrows.
I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men,
the Son of man will acknowledge him before the angels of God.

When they bring you before synagogues and the magistrates and authorities, do not trouble yourselves about how to defend yourselves or what to say, for the holy Spirit will teach you at that hour what you should say.

For thou art our strength,
we are defended by the Eternal,
by our King.

EVENING

He saved us, not for any good deeds we had done but from his own pity for us.

The Eternal is pitiful and gracious,
slow to be angry, rich in love.

For though you were dead in your trespasses, He made you live with Christ, He forgave us all our trespasses, He cancelled the regulations that stood against us—all these obligations he set aside when he nailed them to the cross.

The taxgatherer stood far away and would not lift even his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "O God, have mercy on me for my sins!" I tell you, he went home accepted by God rather than the other man.

Tender and true is the Eternal,
our God indeed is pitiful;
the Eternal protects poor souls—
when I am helpless, he is my saving help.

My prayer is: "O Eternal, be thou gracious,
heal me, for I have sinned against thee."

MORNING

You are my witnesses,
the servants I have chosen.

I have been setting you an example, that you should do what I have done to you. Truly, truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than he who sent him. If you know all this, blessed are you if you really do it.

He who believes in me will do the very deeds I do, and still greater deeds than these. For I am going to the Father, and I will do whatever you ask in my name, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; I will do whatever you ask me in my name.

When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth which issues from the Father, he will bear witness to me; and you too are witnesses.

In him you have received a wealth of all blessing, full power to speak of your faith and full insight into its meaning.

For God has not given us a timid spirit but a spirit of power and love and discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify to our Lord.

EVENING

Happy he who relies on the Eternal,
with the Eternal for his confidence!

He is like a tree planted beside a stream,
reaching its roots to the water;
untouched by any fear of scorching heat,
its leaves are ever green,
it goes on bearing fruit in days of drought,
and lives serene.

Try the Eternal; you will find him kind;
happy the man who takes shelter with him!

My soul looks for the Lord
more eagerly than watchmen for the dawn,
than watchmen for the dawn.
Put your hope in the Eternal, Israel,
for with the Eternal there is love,
there is a wealth of saving power.

What can ever part us from Christ's love? Can anguish or calamity or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or the sword?

No, in all this we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

God eternal is your home,
and underneath you are the everlasting arms!

MORNING

Succour the needy, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, who said, "To give is happier than to get."

Give to anyone who asks you,
and never ask your goods back from anyone who has taken them.
As you would like men to do to you,
so do to them.
When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind. Then you will be blessed; for as they have no means of repaying you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.

Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" And catching him by the right hand he raised him.

"Come, you whom my Father has blessed.
For I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was ill and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you visited me."
I tell you truly, in so far as you did it to one of these my brothers, even to the least of them, you did it to me.

EVENING

He who is within you is greater than he who is in the world.

Thine, O Eternal, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the pre-eminence and the majesty, for all in heaven and earth is thine; thine is the dominion, O Eternal, and thine the supreme authority!

Thy throne stands firm from of old,
thou are from all eternity.
The floods may storm, O thou Eternal,
the floods may storm aloud,
the floods may storm and thunder;
but high above the roaring billows,
high above the ocean breakers,
the Eternal stands supreme.

The God who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, surely he will give us everything besides!

If he gave the impious an example of what was in store for them, but rescued righteous Lot who was sore burdened by the immoral behaviour of the lawless—then be sure the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trial.

MORNING

O man, he has told you what is good;
what does the Eternal ask from you
but to be just and kind
and live in quiet fellowship with your God?

Many were the forms and fashions in which God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these days at the end he has spoken to us by a Son, reflecting God's bright glory and stamped with God's own character.

He committed no sin,
no guile was ever found upon his lips.

He left you an example, and you must be following his footsteps.

"Which of these three men, in your opinion, proved a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The man who took pity on him." Jesus said to him, "Then go and do the same."

We all mirror the glory of the Lord with face unveiled, and so we are being transformed into the same likeness as himself, passing from one glory to another—for this comes of the Lord the Spirit.

EVENING

Who is a God like thee?—forgiving sins
and passing over wrong . . .
delighting to be merciful.

Seek me, and you shall find me; when you seek for me with all your heart.
Pray to me, and I will answer you.

Come, let me put it thus,
the Eternal argues:
Scarlet yours sins may be,
but they can become white as snow,
they may be red as crimson,
and yet turn white as wool.

For in Christ God reconciled the world to himself instead of counting men's trespasses against them.

There is a new creation whenever a man comes to be in Christ; what is old is gone, the new has come.

Such was the purpose of his will, redounding to the praise of his glorious grace bestowed on us in the Beloved, in whom we enjoy our redemption, the forgiveness of our trespasses, by the blood he shed. So richly has God lavished upon us his grace, granting us complete insight and understanding of the open secret of his will, showing us how it was the purpose of his design so to order it in the fullness of the ages that all things in heaven and earth alike should be gathered up in Christ.

MORNING

For there is one Body and one Spirit.

There may be no disunion in the body, but the various members should have a common concern for one another.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Keep in harmony with one another; instead of being ambitious, associate with humble folk; never be self-conceited. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone; aim to be above reproach in the eyes of all; be at peace with all men, if possible, so far as that depends on you.

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed; the prayers of the righteous have a powerful effect.

There are varieties of talents,
  but the same Spirit;
varieties of service,
  but the same Lord;
varieties of effects,
  but the same God who effects everything in everyone.
Each receives his manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

And may the Lord make you increase and excel in love to one another.

EVENING

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Does the clay ask the potter what he is doing?
  does what he makes tell him that he is powerless?

Yours is indeed the God of mystery,
  a God who saves.

I am the Eternal; there is no one else,
  no God beside me:
kings I disarm,
  but you I arm.

In heaven has the Eternal fixed his throne,
  and his dominion covers all the world.
"Not by fighting, not by force, but by my spirit!"
so the Lord of hosts declares.

"Faith and hope and love last on, these three," but the greatest of all is love.

MORNING

Not I but God's grace.

Two men went up to pray in the temple; one was a Pharisee and the other was a taxgatherer. The Pharisee stood up and said his prayer as follows: "I thank thee, O God, I am not like the rest of men, thieves, rogues, and immoral, or even like yon taxgatherer. Twice a week I fast; on all my income I pay tithes." But the taxgatherer stood far away and would not lift even his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "O God, have mercy on me for my sins!" I tell you he went home accepted by God rather than the other man.

All we are given is good, and all our endowments are faultless, descending from above, from the Father of the heavenly lights, who knows no change of rising and setting, who casts no shadow on the earth. It was his own will that we should be born by the Word of the truth, to be a kind of firstfruits among his creatures.

Then what becomes of our boasting? It is ruled out absolutely. We hold a man is justified by faith apart from deeds of the Law altogether.

This is the God to whom you owe your being in Christ Jesus, whom God has made our "Wisdom," that is, our righteousness and consecration and redemption; so that, as it is written, let him who boasts boast of the Lord.

EVENING

Let this be how you pray:
"our Father in heaven,
thy name be revered."

All nations he has created from a common origin, to dwell all over the earth, meaning them to seek for God on the chance of finding him as they grope for him. Though indeed he is close to each one of us, for it is in him that we live and move and exist.

"We too belong to His race."

One God and Father of all, who is over us all, who pervades us all, who is within us all.

For God loved the world so dearly that he gave up his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life, instead of perishing. God did not send his Son into the world to pass sentence on it, but to save the world by him.

You are all sons of God by your faith in Christ Jesus (for all of you who had yourselves baptized into Christ have taken on the character of Christ).

For this reason, then, I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name and nature, praying Him out of the wealth of his glory to grant you a mighty increase of strength by his Spirit in the inner man. May you be filled with the entire fullness of God!

MORNING

If we have died with him, we shall live with him,
if we endure, then we shall reign with him,
if we disown him, then he will disown us.

Remind men of this: adjure them before the Lord not to bandy arguments—no good comes out of that, it only means the undoing of your audience.

Do you not know that in a race, though all run, only one man gains the prize? Run so as to win the prize. Every athlete practises self-restraint all round; but while they do it to win a fading wreath, we do it for an unfading. I run without swerving; I do not plant my blows upon the empty air—no, I maul and master my body, lest, after preaching to other people, I am disqualified myself.

Well then, we must not sleep like the rest of men, but be wakeful and sober; clad in faith and love as our coat of mail, with the hope of salvation as our helmet.

His name is to be on their foreheads.
Night there shall be none;
they need no lamp or sun to shine upon them,
for the Lord God will illumine them;
and they shall reign for ever and ever.

EVENING

Why art thou downcast, O my soul?
Why so despairing?
Wait, wait for God.

Age after age, Lord, thou hast been our home.
Thou hearest the desire of the afflicted.
The hapless can leave their plight to thee,
thou Helper of the forlorn.
Gladden the soul of thy servant,
for on thee, O Lord, I set my heart.
Teach me what is thy way, O thou Eternal,
how to live loyal to thee;
may reverence for thee rejoice my heart.
Tender and true is the Eternal,
our God indeed is pitiful;
the Eternal protects poor souls—
when I am helpless, he is my saving help.
Return to thy rest, O my soul,
for the Eternal has dealt lovingly with thee.
Thou hast saved my life from death,
mine eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling;
I will live mindful of thee now
in the land of the living.

MORNING

You are the light of the world.

In their presence he was transfigured, his face shone like the sun.

Then all who were seated in the Sanhedrin fixed their eyes on him, and saw that his face shone like the face of an angel.

Beloved, I am not writing you any new command, but an old command which you have had from the very beginning. And yet it is a new command that I am writing to you—realized in him and also in yourselves, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. He who says he is "in the light" and hates his brother, is in darkness still. He who loves his brother remains in the light—and in the light there is no pitfall.

He who says he "remains in him" ought to be living as he lived.

Bear yourselves uprightly before pagans; so that they may come to glorify God by what they see of your good conduct.

But we all mirror the glory of the Lord with face unveiled, and so we are being transformed into the same likeness as himself, passing from one glory to another—for this comes of the Lord the Spirit.

EVENING

God made the world and all things in it.

Whatever is to be known of God is plain; God himself has made it plain —for ever since the world was created, his invisible nature, his everlasting power and divine being, have been quite perceptible in what he has made.

The heavens proclaim God's splendour,
  the sky speaks of his handiwork;
day after day takes up the tale,
  night after night makes him known;
their speech has never a word,
  not a sound for the ear,
and yet their message spreads the wide world over,
  their meaning carries to earth's end.

It is he who gives life and breath and all things to all men. He is close to each one of us, for it is in him that we live and move and exist.

The pious shall shine bright as the sky above, and those who have led many to the true religion shall shine like stars for evermore.

So your light is to shine before men, that they may see the good you do and glorify your Father in heaven.

MORNING

Go on growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

I do not venture to class myself or to compare myself with certain exalted individuals! They belong to the class of self-praisers; while I limit myself to the sphere marked out for me by God.

For when Christ suffered for you, he left you an example, and you must be following his footsteps.

He was reviled and he made no retort,
he suffered and he never threatened.

Let him who boasts boast of the Lord; for it is not the self-praiser with his own recommendations who is accepted, it is the man whom the Lord recommends.

We should all attain the unity of the faith and knowledge of God's Son, reaching maturity, reaching the full measure of development which belongs to the fullness of Christ—instead of remaining immature, blown from our course and swayed by every passing wind of doctrine, by the adroitness of men who are dexterous in devising error; we are to hold by the truth, and by our love to grow up wholly into Him.

EVENING

I would rather sit at the threshold of God's house
than live inside the tents of worldly men.

Whom have I in heaven but thee?
On earth I care for nothing else.

O thou who hearest prayer,
all men shall come to thee.
Though our sins be too much for us,
'tis thine to cancel our transgressions.
Happy is he whom thus thou choosest
to dwell in thy courts, close to thee.

The Eternal longs to favour you,
and moves to show you pity;
for the Eternal is a loyal God;
happy are all who long for him!
He your Teacher never leaves you now;
and when you swerve to right or left,
you hear a Voice behind you whispering,
"This is the way, walk here."

MORNING

I bear testimony to thy law unashamed.

To Greeks and to barbarians, to wise and to foolish alike, I owe a duty. Hence my eagerness to preach the gospel. For I am proud of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who has faith. God's righteousness is revealed in it by faith and for faith—as it is written, By faith shall the righteous live.

I set no value on my own life as compared with the joy of finishing my course and fulfilling the commission I received from the Lord Jesus to attest the gospel of the grace of God.

Christ Jesus testified to the good confession before Pontius Pilate.

We bear witness, with the holy Spirit which God has given to those who obey him.

Always be ready with a reply for anyone who calls you to account for the hope you cherish, but answer gently and with a sense of reverence; see that you have a clean conscience, so that, for all their slander of you, these libellers of your good Christian behaviour may be ashamed.

God has not given us a timid spirit but a spirit of power and love and discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify to our Lord.

EVENING

Turn to me and you are saved,
all ends of the earth!
As I am God and God alone.

God desires all men to be saved and to attain the knowledge of the Truth.

May Christ dwell in your hearts as you have faith! May you be so fixed and founded in love that you can grasp with all the saints what is the meaning of "the Breadth," "the Length," "the Depth" and "the Height," by knowing the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge! May you be filled with the entire fullness of God!

For all time he is able to save those who approach God through him, since he is always living to intercede on their behalf.

There is no room for Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free man; Christ is everything and everywhere.

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the holy Spirit, and teach them to obey all the commands I have laid on you. I will be with you all the time, to the very end of the world.

MORNING

The Lord will pass sentence.

Why note the splinter in your brother's eye, and fail to see the plank in your own eye? How dare you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," and yet you never notice the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite! take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see properly to take out the splinter in your brother's eye.

"Do you think, because they suffered this, that these Galileans were worse sinners than the rest of the Galileans?
I tell you, no;
unless you repent, you will all perish as they did."

Who among you is wise and learned? Let him show by his good conduct, with the humble modesty of wisdom, what his deeds are. But if you are cherishing bitter jealousy and rivalry in your hearts, do not pride yourselves on that—and be false to the truth. That is not the wisdom which comes down from above, it is an earthly wisdom, unspiritual, devilish; for wherever jealousy and rivalry exist, there disorder reigns and every evil.

So do not criticize, the hour of reckoning has still to come, when the Lord will come to bring dark secrets to the light and to reveal life's inner aims and motives. Then each of us will get his meed of praise from God.

EVENING

The Lord disciplines the man he loves.

Greet it as pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter any sort of trial, sure that the sterling temper of your faith produces endurance; only, let your endurance be a finished product, so that you may be finished and complete, with never a defect.

Perplexed but not despairing, persecuted but not abandoned, struck down but not destroyed—
wherever I go, I am being killed in the body as Jesus was,
so that the life of Jesus may come out in my body:
every day of my life I am being given over to death for Jesus' sake,
so that the life of Jesus may come out within my mortal flesh.

Present suffering, I hold, is a mere nothing compared to the glory that we are to have revealed, the glorious freedom of God's children.

When a woman is in labour she is sorry, for her time has come; but when the child is born she remembers her anguish no longer, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. So with you. Just now you are in sorrow, but I shall see you again and your heart will rejoice—with a joy that no one can take from you.

MORNING

Circumcision counts for nothing, uncircumcision counts for nothing; obedience to God's commands is everything.

God has no favourites, but he who reverences Him and lives a good life in any nation is welcomed by Him.

So he got up and went on his way. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a high official of Candacê queen of the Ethiopians (he was her chief treasurer), who had come to Jerusalem for worship.

As they travelled on, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Here is water! What is to prevent me being baptized?" So he ordered the chariot to stop. Both of them stepped into the water, and Philip baptized the eunuch.

Make no mistake about it; neither the immoral nor idolaters will inherit the Realm of God. Some of you were once like that; but you washed yourselves clean, you were consecrated, you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Go and make disciples of all nations, and teach them to obey all the commands I have laid on you.

EVENING

We have all been receiving grace after grace from his fullness.

You know how gracious our Lord Jesus Christ was; rich though he was, he became poor for the sake of you, that by his poverty you might be rich.

You have had a taste of the kindness of the Lord: come to him then—come to that living Stone and, like living stones yourselves, be built into a spiritual house, to form a consecrated priesthood for the offering of those spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

He who believes in him will never be disappointed.

My God will supply all your own needs from his wealth in Glory in Christ Jesus.

"He yearns jealously for the spirit he set within us." He gives grace more and more.

So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in the hour of need.

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory now and to the day of eternity: Amen.

MORNING

There are varieties of talents,
but the same God who effects everything in everyone.

For the case is that of a man going abroad, who summoned his servants and handed over his property to them; to one he gave twelve hundred pounds, to another five hundred, and to another two hundred and fifty; each got according to his capacity.

The twelve summoned the main body of the disciples and said: "It is not desirable that we should drop preaching the word of God and attend to meals. Brothers, look out seven of your own number, men of good reputation who are full of the Spirit and of wisdom. We will appoint them to this duty, but we will continue to devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word."

Each receives his manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. One man is granted words of wisdom by the Spirit, another words of knowledge by the same Spirit; one man in the same Spirit has the gift of faith, another in the one Spirit has gifts of healing. But all these effects are produced by one and the same Spirit.

You must serve one another, each with the talent he has received, as efficient stewards of God's varied grace.

EVENING

God's love floods our hearts through the holy Spirit which has been given to us.

If you love me you will keep my commands, and I will ask the Father to give you another Helper to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth: the world cannot receive him, because it neither sees nor knows him, but you know him, because he remains with you and will be within you.

The holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and recall to you everything I have said. Peace I leave to you, my peace I give to you; I give it not as the world gives its "Peace!" Let not your hearts be disquieted or timid.

So too the Spirit assists us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray aright, but the Spirit pleads before God for the saints.

Do you, beloved, build up yourselves on your most holy faith and pray in the holy Spirit, so keeping yourselves within the love of God and waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that ends in life eternal.

MORNING

For heedless folk fall by their own self-will,
the senseless are destroyed by their indifference.

Since they hated knowledge
and chose not to reverence the Eternal,
so now they must eat the fruit of their own doings,
and have their fill of all that they devised.

He told them a parable. "A rich man's estate bore heavy crops. And he said, 'I will pull down my granaries and build larger ones, where I can store all my produce and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample stores laid up for many a year; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."' But God said to him, 'Foolish man, this very night your soul is required from you; and who will get all you have prepared?' So fares the man who lays up treasure for himself, instead of gaining the riches of God."

Yet he gives grace more and more; thus it is said,
The haughty God opposes,
but to the humble he gives grace.

EVENING

I will comfort you,
as mothers comfort sons.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort, who comforts me in all my distress so that I am able to comfort people who are in any distress by the comfort with which I myself am comforted by God.

He treats us not according to our sins,
he deals not with us as our guilt deserves;
but, high as heaven is over earth,
so vast his love is to his worshippers;
as far as east from the west,
so far he puts our sins away from us.
Poor man!—his days are like the grass,
at the breath of a breeze it is gone,
and its place never sees it again.
But the Eternal's love is everlasting,
his loyalty goes to children's children.

Can a woman forget her infant,
forget to pity her babe?
Yet even were a mother to forget,
never will I forget you.

MORNING

Judge not, that you may not be judged yourselves.

Do not defame one another; he who defames or judges his brother, defames and judges the Law; and if you judge the Law, you pass sentence on it instead of obeying it. One alone is the legislator; who are you, to judge your neighbour?

Do not criticize at all; the hour of reckoning has still to come, when the Lord will bring dark secrets to the light and reveal life's inner aims and motives. Then each of us will get his meed of praise from God.

Why do you look down upon your brother? All of us have to stand before the tribunal of God. Each of us then will have to answer for himself to God.

Never revenge yourselves, beloved, but let the Wrath of God have its way; for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will exact a requital—the Lord has said it. No,

if your enemy is hungry, feed him,
  if he is thirsty, give him drink;
for in this way you will make him
  feel a burning sense of shame.

EVENING

He knows when he tests me.

Remember how God led you through the desert during these forty years, to teach you your need of him, to prove you, to find out if it was your purpose to obey his orders or not. So he made you feel your need of him, that he might make you know that man lives not only by food but by every word that comes out of the lips of the Eternal. You must keep this in mind, that the Eternal your God disciplines you as a man disciplines his son.

God saves the sufferer by suffering,
  and by adversity gets him to listen.
Let not his chastening make you rage at him;
  let not the cost of discipline deter you.

Greet it as pure joy, when you encounter any sort of trial, sure that the sterling temper of your faith produces endurance.

Discipline always seems for the time to be a thing of pain, not of joy; but those who are trained by it reap the fruit of it afterwards in the peace of an upright life.

Before my trouble I went wrong, but now I do thy bidding.
It is good for me to have been in trouble—to learn thy will.

MORNING

Consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sin is not to reign over your mortal bodies and make you obey their passions; you must dedicate yourselves to God as men who have been brought from death to life.

For the interests of the flesh are hostile to God; they do not yield to the law of God. Those who are in the flesh cannot satisfy God. But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells within you.

"The Lord" means the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is open freedom. But we all mirror the glory of the Lord with face unveiled, and so we are being transformed into the same likeness as himself, passing from one glory to another—for this comes of the Lord the Spirit.

Hence I never lose heart; though my outward man decays, my inner man is renewed day after day. The slight trouble of the passing hour results in a solid glory past all comparison, for those of us whose eyes are on the unseen, not on the seen; for the seen is transient, the unseen eternal.

EVENING

What is born of the flesh is flesh: what is born of the Spirit is spirit. You must all be born from above.

You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

As they persisted with their question, he raised himself and said to them, "Let the innocent among you throw the first stone at her"; then he stooped down again and wrote on the ground. And on hearing what he said, they went away one by one, beginning with the older men, till Jesus was left alone with the woman.

All are faithless,
one and all are tainted;
not one does right,
no, not a single one.

Sons of disobedience among whom all of us lived, when we obeyed the passions of our flesh, when we were objects of God's anger by nature, like the rest of men.

But "the goodness and affection of God our Saviour appeared; and he saved us, not for any good deeds we had done but from his own pity for us, by the holy Spirit which he poured upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs to the hope of life eternal."

MORNING

Give us to-day our bread for the morrow.

Give neither wealth nor poverty,
but feed me with the food I need;
lest I be full and disclaim thee,
saying, "Who is the Eternal?"
or sink to poverty and steal,
discrediting my God.

Better a little, with reverence for the Eternal,
than large wealth with worry.
Better a dish of vegetables, with love,
than the best beef served with hatred.

Religion is rich profit, provided that it goes with a contented spirit—for we bring nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

He said to them, "When I sent you out with neither purse nor wallet nor sandals, were you in want of anything?" "No," they said, "nothing."

I tell you, whatever you pray for and ask, believe you have got it, and you shall have it.

EVENING

Help comes from the Eternal who made heaven and earth.

On the day of trouble may the Eternal answer you,
may Jacob's God, whom you invoke, protect you,
sending help from the sanctuary.

From his sacred heavens he will answer
with mighty, saving victories.
Some pride themselves on chariots, some on horses,
but our pride is our God the Eternal.

Trust God, he will never let you be tempted beyond what you can stand, but, when temptation comes, he will provide the way out of it.

Thou searchest me, Eternal One, thou knowest me,
thou knowest me sitting or rising,
walking or resting, I am scanned by thee,
and all my life to thee lies open;
thou art on every side, behind me and before,
laying thy hand on me.

Never will he let you slip; he who guards you never sleeps.

MORNING

Keep in mind whatever is true . . . whatever is just.

Hark, 'tis the Eternal calling to the city:
"Listen, O clan of Judah, O council of citizens—
hard and harsh are the classes,
deceitful are the masses,
with mouths full of falsehood."
Can I condone wrong balances
and short weights in the trader's bag?

Better a poor man of honest life
than a false creature, for all his wealth.

As you believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, pay no servile regard to people. If you attend to the wearer of handsome clothes and say to him, "Sit here, this is a good place," and tell the poor man, "You can stand," or "Sit there at my feet," are you not proving that you judge people with partiality?

Abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war upon the soul; bear yourselves uprightly before pagans; so that, for all their slander of you as bad characters, they may come to glorify God when you are put upon your trial, by what they see of your good conduct.

EVENING

Not that I have already attained . . . or am already perfect, but I press on.

When the manager of the feast tasted the water which had become wine, he called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everybody serves the good wine first, and then the poorer wine after people have drunk freely; you have kept the good wine till now."

Said I to myself, "Come, try pleasure and enjoy yourself."
Nothing I coveted did I refuse myself; but when I turned to look at all I had achieved it was all vain and futile. Nothing in this world is worth while.

Now we have received the Spirit—not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that comes from God, that we may understand what God has prepared all that for those who love him.

The course of good men, like a ray of dawn,
shines on and on to the full light of day.

MORNING

May the Eternal your God accept your sacrifice!

Man's ways are always right in his own eyes,
  but the Eternal has the verdict on his life.
Justice and fairness
  please the Eternal more than sacrifices.
Haughty looks, a proud heart,
  showy splendour—it is all sin.

Come to that living Stone which men have rejected and God holds choice and precious; come and, like living stones yourselves, be built into a spiritual house, to form a consecrated priesthood for the offering of those spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Lead the life of those who are children of the light (for the fruit of light consists in all that is good and right and true).

I appeal to you, by all the mercy of God, to dedicate your bodies as a living sacrifice, consecrated and acceptable to God.

EVENING

The Eternal's purpose stands for ever,
  and what he plans will last from age to age.

Try the Eternal: you will find him kind;
  happy the man who takes shelter with him!

I besought the Eternal and he answered me,
  he rescued me from all my terrors;
look to him, and you shall beam with joy,
  you shall never be abashed.

God eternal is your home,
  and underneath you are the everlasting arms!

All whom thou hast made shall praise thee, O Eternal,
  thy faithful followers shall bless thee,
telling of thy glorious kingdom, talking of thy might.
Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
  and thy dominion lasts from age to age.
Thou didst found the earth at the beginning, O Lord,
and the heavens are the work of thy hands;
they shall perish, but thou remainest,
they shall all be worn out like a garment,
thou wilt roll them up like a mantle and they shall be changed,
but thou art the same,
and thy years never fail.

MORNING

You share the membership of the saints.

Time would fail me to tell of men who by faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, from weakness won to strength (men of whom the world was not worthy). They all won their record for faith.

We are a colony of heaven, and we wait for the Saviour who comes from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body that belongs to our low estate till it resembles the body of his Glory, by the same power that enables him to make everything subject to himself.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, grant you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation for the knowledge of himself, illuminating the eyes of your heart so that you can understand the hope to which He calls us, the wealth of his glorious heritage in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of his power over us believers—a power which operates with the strength of the might which he exerted in raising Christ from the dead.

EVENING

In the world you have trouble, but courage!—I have conquered the world.

Troubles are our lot, you know that well; for we told you beforehand, when we were with you, that "we Christians are to have trouble"—and, as you know, it has been so.

Men will lay hands on you and persecute you; you will be dragged before kings and governors for the sake of my name. That will turn out an opportunity for you to bear witness. I will give you words and wisdom that not one of your opponents will be able to meet or refute. You will be hated by all on account of my name; but not a hair of your head will perish.

Blessed are you when men denounce you and persecute you and utter all manner of evil against you for my sake; rejoice and exult in it, for your reward is rich in heaven; that is how they persecuted the prophets before you.

These are the people who have come out of the great Distress, who washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this they are now before the throne of God, serving him day and night within his temple.

The Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
guiding them to fountains of living water;
and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

MORNING

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Woe to you jurists! you load men with irksome burdens,
and you will not put a single finger to their burdens.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Keep in harmony with one another; instead of being ambitious, associate with humble folk; never be self-conceited. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone.

If your enemy is hungry, feed him,
if he is thirsty, give him drink;
for in this way you will make him
feel a burning sense of shame.

If anyone be detected in some trespass, you are spiritual, you must set the offender right in a spirit of gentleness, each of you looking to himself, in case he too is tempted.

You must have sympathy, brotherly love, compassion, and humility, never paying back evil for evil, never reviling when you are reviled, but on the contrary blessing. For this is your vocation, to bless and to inherit blessing.

EVENING

The law of the Spirit brings the life which is in Christ Jesus, and that law has set me free from the law of sin and death.

You will understand the truth, and the truth will set you free.

The slave does not remain in the household for all time; the son of the house does. So, if the Son sets you free, you will be really free.

The crucified body of Christ made you dead to the Law, so that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, that we might be fruitful to God. For when we were unspiritual, the sinful cravings excited by the Law were active in our members and they made us fruitful to Death; but now we are done with the Law, we have died to what once held us, so that we can serve in a new way, not under the written code as of old but in the Spirit.

Sin must not have any hold over you, for you live under grace, not under law.

Hence we are children with the freedom for which Christ set us free. Make a firm stand then, never slip into any yoke of servitude.

MORNING

If you know all this, blessed are you if you really do it.

Any tree that does not produce sound fruit will be cut down.

It is not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord!", who will get into the Realm of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven.

Love is complete with us when we have absolute confidence about the day of judgment, since in this world we are living as He lives.

What is the use of anyone declaring he has faith, if he has no deeds to show? Suppose some brother or sister is ill-clad and short of daily food; if any of you says to them, "Depart in peace! Get warm, get food," without supplying their bodily needs, what use is that? So faith, unless it has deeds, is dead in itself.

Clear away all the foul rank growth of malice, and make a soil of humble modesty for the Word which roots itself inwardly with power to save your souls. For whoever listens and does nothing, is like a man who glances at his natural face in a mirror and at once forgets what he was like. Whereas he who gazes into the faultless law of freedom, proving himself to be no forgetful listener but an active agent, he will be blessed in his activity.

EVENING

Sons of the Most High.

God called you to participate in his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Son whom he appointed heir of the universe, as it was by him that he created the world. He, reflecting God's bright glory and stamped with God's own character, sustains the universe with his word of power.

For it was no fabricated fables that we followed when we reported to you the power and advent of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were admitted to the spectacle of his sovereignty, when he was invested with honour and glory by God the Father, and when the voice was borne to him from the sublime Glory. "This is my son, the Beloved, in whom I delight."

You have received no slavish spirit that would make you relapse into fear; you have received the Spirit of sonship. And when we cry, "Abba! Father!", it is this Spirit testifying along with our own spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs as well, heirs of God, heirs along with Christ—for we share his sufferings in order to share his glory.

So your light is to shine before men, that they may see the good you do and glorify your Father in heaven.

MORNING

Jesus sent him away, saying, "Go home and describe all that God has done for you."

Then I said,
"Ah, but, O Lord Eternal, I cannot speak,
I am too young!"
But the Eternal said to me, "Say not, you are too young. I have put my words into your mouth."

One of the two men who heard what John said and went after Jesus was Andrew. In the morning he met his brother Simon and told him, "We have found the messiah."

Now Philip belonged to Bethsaida, the same town as Andrew and Peter; he met Nathanael and told him, "We have found him whom Moses wrote about in the Law, and also the prophets—it is Jesus, the son of Joseph."

So preach the glad news that the promise made to the fathers has been fulfilled by God for us.

Whoever of you is defective in wisdom, let him ask God, and the gift will be his.

EVENING

"I myself will tend my flock, I will take them to their pasture," says the Lord the Eternal.

For he feeds his flock like a shepherd,
and gathers them in his arms,
he is carrying the lambs in his bosom,
and leading the ewes gently.

You were astray like sheep, but you have come back now to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

Like sheep we had all gone astray,
we had each taken his own way,
and on him the Eternal laid
the guilt of all of us.

The Son of man has come to seek and save the lost.

Seek out thy servant in his wanderings, for I forget not thy commands.

Eternal One, (thy servant) rejoices in thy power;
how he exults in thy victorious aid!
Thou hast given him his heart's desire,
and denied not his request.
He asked for life, and life thou gavest,
life long and lasting.

MORNING

We have become like men unclean,
our goodness is a filthy rag.

The Eternal looks from heaven upon mankind,
to see if any have the sense
to care for God.
But all are faithless,
one and all are tainted;
not one does right,
no, not a single one.

If we say, "We are not guilty," we are deceiving ourselves; if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, he forgives our sins and cleanses us from all iniquity.

Let guilty men give up their ways,
and evil men their purposes;
let them turn back to the Eternal,
who will pity them,
turn back to our God, for he
will pardon them abundantly.

Scripture has consigned all without exception to the custody of sin, in order that the promise due to faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who have faith.

EVENING

Steadfast—he rules aright.

He set up his witness in Jacob,
he appointed a law within Israel,
bidding our fathers instruct their children,
to put their confidence in God
and loyally obey him.

Happy are they who live uprightly, living by the Eternal's law!
Happy are they who follow his injunctions, giving him undivided hearts,
who do no wrong, who keep to his paths!
Thy justice is eternal justice, and thy law is truth itself.

Not a word has failed of all the good promises he made to us.

He will refresh you in dry places,
and renew your strength,
till you are like a watered garden,
like an oasis with a steadfast spring.

MORNING

For the passing moment you may need to suffer various trials; that is only to prove your faith is sterling.

Lord, all my longing is well known to thee,
thou art no stranger to my sighs;
my heart is throbbing, the pith of life has left me,
light has gone from mine eyes.
For thee, O thou Eternal, I am waiting,
O Lord my God.

The entire creation sighs and throbs with pain; even we ourselves, who have the Spirit as a foretaste of the future, even we sigh deeply to ourselves as we wait for the redemption of the body that means our full sonship.

It makes me sigh, indeed, this yearning to be under cover of my heavenly habitation.

I know that if this earthly tent of mine is taken down, I get a home from God, made by no human hands, eternal in the heavens.

For creation was not rendered futile by its own choice, but by the will of Him who thus made it subject, the hope being that creation as well as man would one day be freed from its thraldom to decay and gain the glorious freedom of God's children.

EVENING

I wait in hope for the Eternal,
my soul waits hoping for his promise.

My soul looks for the Lord
more eagerly than watchmen for the dawn,
than watchmen for the dawn.
Put your hope in the Eternal, Israel,
for with the Eternal there is love,
there is a wealth of saving power.

Present suffering, I hold, is a mere nothing compared to the glory that we are to have revealed. Even the creation waits with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. We were saved with this hope in view. Now when an object of hope is seen, there is no further need to hope. Who ever hopes for what he sees already? But if we hope for something that we do not see, we wait for it patiently.

We are children of God now, beloved; what we are to be is not apparent yet, but we do know that when he appears we are to be like him—for we are to see him as he is. And everyone who rests this hope on him, purifies himself as He is pure.

MORNING

I am the light of the world: he who follows me will never walk in darkness.

The unspiritual man rejects the truths of the Spirit of God; he cannot understand them. And the reason is that they must be read with the spiritual eye.

Your eye is the lamp of the body:
when your eye is sound,
then the whole of your body has light,
but if your eye is diseased,
then your body is darkened.
(Look! perhaps your very light is dark.)

So if your whole body has light, without any corner of it in darkness, it will be lit up entirely, as when a lamp lights you with its rays.

God who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," has shone within my heart to illuminate men with the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Christ.

Less than the least of all saints as I am, this grace was vouchsafed me, that I should bring the gospel of the fathomless wealth of Christ and enlighten men upon the new order of that divine secret which God the Creator of all concealed from eternity.

EVENING

For all belongs to you.

Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life, death, the present and the future—all belongs to you; and you belong to Christ, and Christ to God.

He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise me too with Jesus. It is all in your interests, so that the more grace abounds, the more thanksgiving may rise and redound to the glory of God. Hence I never lose heart; though my outward man decays, my inner man is renewed day after day.

As all die in Adam,
so shall all be made alive in Christ.

For this perishing body must be invested with the imperishable, and this mortal body invested with immortality; then the saying of Scripture will be realized,

Death is swallowed up in victory.
O Death, where is your victory?
O Death, where is your sting?

The victory is ours, thank God! He makes it ours by our Lord Jesus Christ.

MORNING

If anyone loves me he will obey my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and take up our abode with him.

He who possesses my commands and obeys them is he who loves me, and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and appear to him.

I tell you another thing: if two of you agree on earth about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three have gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name and nature, pray Him out of the wealth of his glory to grant you a mighty increase of strength by his Spirit in the inner man. May Christ dwell in your hearts as you have faith! May you be so fixed and founded in love that you can grasp with all the saints what is the meaning of "the Breadth," "the Length," "the Depth," and "the Height," by knowing the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge! He is able to do all, aye far more than we can ever ask or imagine.

EVENING

The Eternal's hand is not too short to save,
the Eternal's ear is not too dull to hear!

As it is written,

The deliverer will come from Sion,
he will banish all godlessness from Jacob:
this is my covenant with them,
when I take their sins away.

The Eternal is near the broken-hearted,
and for crushed spirits he has help;
the good man may have many a mishap,
but from them all the Eternal rescues him.

By God's help I shall maintain my cause;
in God I trust without a fear:
what can man do to me?

Return to thy rest, O my soul,
for the Eternal has dealt lovingly with thee.
Thou hast saved my life from death,
mine eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.

The Eternal is my strength and shield, my heart has faith in him; so I am helped, my heart exults, and I sing to his praise,
to the Eternal, the strength of his people, a saving stronghold for his chosen.

MORNING

Rely with all your heart on the Eternal,
and never lean on your own insight.

Is it not Wisdom calling,
Knowledge raising her voice?
O men, I am calling to you,
my appeal is to all men!
O heedless souls, learn insight,
O foolish folk, learn sense!
I utter what is true,
false lips I loathe.

Choose instruction rather than silver,
and knowledge rather than rare gold;
for wisdom is better than rubies,
no treasure is equal to her.

On him shall rest the spirit of the Eternal,
the spirit of wisdom and insight,
the spirit of counsel and strength.

So by all the stimulus of Christ, I pray you to give me the utter joy of knowing you are living in harmony, with the same feelings of love, with one heart and soul, never acting for private ends or from vanity, but humbly considering each other the better man, and each with an eye to the interests of others as well as to his own. Treat one another with the same spirit as you experience in Christ Jesus.

EVENING

He who has begun the good work in you will go on completing it until the day of Jesus Christ.

He is close to each one of us, for it is in him that we live and move and exist.

Hence I never lose heart; though my outward man decays, my inner man is renewed day after day. The slight trouble of the passing hour results in a solid glory past all comparison, for those of us whose eyes are on the unseen, not on the seen; for the seen is transient, the unseen eternal.

The God who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, surely He will give us everything besides!

Son though he was, he learned by all he suffered how to obey, and by being thus perfected he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

I will do whatever you ask me in my name.

MORNING

Love is very patient, very kind.

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often is my brother to sin against me and be forgiven? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Seven times? I say, seventy times seven!"

As the Lord's prisoner, then, I beg of you to live a life worthy of your calling, with perfect modesty and gentleness, showing forbearance.

Do not vex God's holy Spirit, by whom you have been sealed for the day of redemption; drop all bitter feeling and passion and anger and clamouring and insults, together with all malice; be kind to each other, be tender-hearted, be generous to each other as God has been generous to you in Christ.

If your enemy is hungry, feed him,
if he is thirsty, give him drink;
for in this way you will make him
feel a burning sense of shame.

Never let evil get the better of you; get the better of evil by doing good.

EVENING

Not like the rest of men who have no hope, since we believe Jesus.

That open secret which, though concealed from ages and generations of old, has now been disclosed to the saints of God. It is His will that they should understand the glorious wealth which this secret holds in the fact of Christ's presence among you as your hope of glory.

Knowledge of the Truth goes with a religious life, serving in hope the life eternal which God, who never lies, promised ages ago.

When the time had fully expired, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to ransom those who were under the Law, that we might have our sonship. It is because you are sons that God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying "Abba! Father!" So you are son, and as son you are also heir, all owing to God.

For the grace of God has appeared to save all men, and it schools us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions and to live a life of self-mastery, of integrity, and of piety in this present world.

Awaiting the blessed hope of the appearance of the Glory of the great God and of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us to redeem us from all iniquity and secure himself a clean people, with a zest for good deeds.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a life of hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

MORNING

Worship the Father in Spirit and in reality.

"Woman," said Jesus, "believe me, the time is coming when you will be worshipping the Father neither on this mountain nor at Jerusalem. The time is coming, it has come already, when the real worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in reality; for these are the worshippers that the Father desires. God is Spirit, and his worshippers must worship him in Spirit and in reality."

On those who have accepted him, he has conferred the right of being children of God, that is, on those who believe in his Name, who owe this birth of theirs to God.

For we have all been receiving grace after grace from his fulness; while the Law was given through Moses, grace and reality are ours through Jesus Christ. Nobody has ever seen God, but God has been unfolded by the divine One, the only Son, who lies upon the Father's breast.

Dear children, let us put our love not into words or into talk but into deeds, and make it real.

EVENING

It is granted you to understand the open secrets of the Realm of heaven.

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. "Thus," he said, "it is written that the Christ has to suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and the remission of sins must be preached in his name to all nations."

For God has consigned all men to disobedience,
that he may have mercy upon all.
What a fathomless wealth lies in the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How inscrutable his judgments! How mysterious his methods!
As it is written,
what no eye has ever seen,
what no ear has ever heard,
what never entered the mind of man,
God has prepared all that for those who love him.
And God has revealed it to us by the Spirit, for the Spirit fathoms everything, even the depths of God.
What human being can understand the thoughts of a man,
except the man's own inner spirit!
So too no one understands the thoughts of God,
except the Spirit of God.
Now we have received the Spirit—not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that comes from God, that we may understand what God bestows upon us.

MORNING

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for goodness!
they will be satisfied.

You declare, "I am rich, I am well off, I lack nothing!"—not knowing you are a miserable creature, pitiful, poor, blind, naked.

Why spend your money on what is not food,
your earnings on what never satisfies?
Listen to me, oh listen, and you shall feed on good.

Then said Jesus, "What Moses gave you was not the bread from heaven; it is my Father who gives you the real bread from heaven—for the bread of God is what comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

"Even as the living Father sent me and I live by the Father, so he who feeds on me will also live by me. Such is the bread which has come down from heaven: your ancestors ate their bread and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live for ever."

He has satisfied the hungry with good things.

EVENING

Thy kindness rest on us, O thou Eternal,
as our hope rests in thee!

Why art thou downcast, O my soul?
Why so despairing?
Wait, wait for God; I shall again
be praising him, my saving help, my God.

So I wait in hope for the Eternal,
my soul waits hoping for his promise;
my soul looks for the Lord
more eagerly than watchmen for the dawn,
than watchmen for the dawn.
Put your hope in the Eternal, Israel,
for with the Eternal there is love,
there is a wealth of saving power.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ we have got access to this grace where we have our standing, and triumph in the hope of God's glory. Not only so, but we triumph even in our troubles, knowing that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope—a hope which never disappoints us.

Thank the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all the saints, due to the hope which is laid up for you in heaven. You heard of this hope originally, in that gospel which has reached you as it spreads over all the world.

MORNING

As you would like men to do to you,
so do to them!

He who tells a man in the wrong, "You are right,"
men will curse him, people will denounce him.
He is a true friend
who is honest with you:
those who reprove shall prosper,
good fortune shall be theirs.

Never give baseless evidence against your neighbour,
never mislead men by what you say.
Never be in a hurry to repeat
something you may have seen.
Talk the thing over with the other man,
but never give away his secret.

A reckless tongue wounds like a sword,
but there is healing power in thoughtful words.

Worry weighs a man down:
a kind word cheers him up.

Never think, "I will treat him as he treated me.
I will pay back the man for what he did."
If your enemy is hungry give him food,
and give him water if he thirsts;
for so you shall quench blazing passions,
and the Eternal will reward you.

EVENING

Ah come, all ye that thirst, come to the waters.

Jesus stood and cried aloud. "If anyone is athirst, let him come to me and drink. Anyone who drinks the water that I shall give him will never thirst any more; the water that I shall give him will turn into a spring of water welling up to life eternal."

He meant by this the Spirit which those who believed in him were to receive.

The deer is panting for the stream,
and, O God, I pant for thee.
I am athirst for God, the living God.

"Come," says the Spirit.
Let the thirsty come,
let anyone who desires it, take the water of Life without price.

MORNING

Those who have led many to the true religion shall shine like stars for evermore.

Then Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me . . . ?" "Why, Lord," he said, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," said Jesus.

You will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses.

Aim at integrity, piety, faith, love, steadfastness, and suavity; fight in the good fight of the faith, secure that life eternal to which you were called when you voiced the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God who is the Life of all, and of Christ Jesus who testified to the good confession before Pontius Pilate.

Full authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth; go and make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the holy Spirit, and teach them to obey all the commands I have laid on you. And all the time I will be with you, to the very end of the world.

EVENING

For we are members of his Body.

He is the head of the Body, that is, of the church, in virtue of his primacy as the first to be born from the dead—that gives him preeminence over all. For it was in him that the divine Fulness willed to settle without limit, and by him to reconcile in his own person all on earth and all in heaven alike, in a peace made by the blood of his cross. Once you were estranged yourselves, your hearts hostile to him in evil doing; but now he has reconciled you by dying in his mortal body, so as to set you consecrated and unblemished and irreproachable in his presence.

He granted some men to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, for the equipment of the saints, for the business of the ministry, for the upbuilding of the Body of Christ, till we should all attain the unity of the faith and knowledge of God's Son, reaching maturity, reaching the full measure of development which belongs to the fulness of Christ.

We are to hold by the truth, and by our love to grow up wholly into Him. For He, Christ, is the head and under him, as the entire Body is welded together and compacted by every joint with which it is supplied, the due activity of each part enables the Body to grow and build itself up in love.

MORNING

No one is any use to the Reign of God who puts his hand to the plough and then looks behind him.

Ill-treatment with God's people he preferred to the passing pleasures of sin, considering obloquy with the messiah to be richer wealth than Egypt's treasures.

Demas, in his love for this world, has deserted me.

Love not the world, nor yet what is in the world; if anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the proud glory of life, belongs not to the Father, but to the world; and the world is passing away with its desire, while he who does the will of God remains for ever.

Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me go and bury my father first of all"; Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

My just man is to live on by his faith;
if he shrinks back, my soul takes no delight in him.
We are not the men to shrink back and be lost, but to have faith and so to win our souls.

EVENING

And may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope, graciously encourage your hearts and strengthen them for all good in deed and word.

My sheep listen to my voice, and I know them and they follow me, and I give them eternal life; they shall never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father who gave me them is stronger than all, and no one can snatch anything out of my Father's hand.

What can ever part us from Christ's love? Can anguish or calamity or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or the sword?
No, in all this we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

We toil and strive, because our hope is fixed upon the living God, the Saviour of all men—a hope which never disappoints us, since God's love floods our hearts through the holy Spirit which has been given to us.

The Lord will rescue me from every assault of evil, he will bring me safe to his own realm in heaven. To him be glory for ever and ever! Amen.

MORNING

Fight in the good fight of the faith.

I do live in the flesh, but I do not make war as the flesh does; the weapons of my warfare are not weapons of the flesh, but divinely strong.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might; put on God's armour so as to be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil. So take God's armour, that you may be able to make a stand upon the evil day and hold your ground by overcoming all the foe. Hold your ground, tighten the belt of truth about your loins, wear integrity as your coat of mail, and have your feet shod with the stability of the gospel of peace; above all, take faith as your shield, to enable you to quench all the fire-tipped darts flung by the evil one, put on salvation as your helmet, and take the Spirit as your sword (that is, the word of God), praying at all times in the Spirit with all manner of prayer and entreaty.

We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
If we endure we shall reign with him.

EVENING

Now we have received the Spirit—not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that comes from God, that we may understand what God bestows upon us.

I call you servants no longer, because a servant does not know what his master is doing: I call you friends, because I have imparted to you all that I have learned from my Father.

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all the truth; for he will not speak of his own accord, he will say whatever he is told, and he will disclose to you what is to come, because it is granted you to understand the open secrets of the Realm of heaven.

For this reason, then, I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name and nature, praying Him out of the wealth of his glory to grant you a mighty increase of strength by his Spirit in the inner man. May Christ dwell in your hearts as you have faith! May you be so fixed and founded in love that you can grasp with all the saints what is the meaning of "the Breadth," "the Length," "the Depth," and "the Height" by knowing the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge! May you be filled with the entire fulness of God!

MORNING

To please and serve thee is my joy,
thy law lies deep within my heart.

The Eternal's orders are just, a joy to the heart;
Yes, and by them thy servant takes warning;
in following them there is rich profit.

Thou Eternal, evermore thy law stands fast in heaven,
thy faithful promise holds from age to age, sure upon earth;
thy rule and order last to-day, for all things are thy servants.

Thy law is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. For whoever listens and does nothing, is like a man who glances at his natural face in a mirror, and at once forgets what he was like. Whereas he who gazes into the faultless law of freedom and remains in that position, proving himself to be no forgetful listener but an active agent, he will be blessed in his activity.

EVENING

Wait for the Eternal; be strong, my soul, be brave;
yes, wait for the Eternal.

"Fear not,
droop not your hands, O Sion."
The Eternal your God is in your midst.
Fear not, for I am with you,
I am your God, be not dismayed;
I will strengthen, I will support you,
I will uphold you with my trusty hand.

Put heart into the listless,
and brace all weak-kneed souls,
tell men with fluttering hearts,
"Have courage, never fear;
here comes your God,
he comes himself to save you!"

Lo, God's dwelling-place is with men,
with men will he dwell;
he shall wipe every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more—
no more wailing, no more crying, no more pain,
for the former things have passed away.

MORNING

Let your hope be a joy to you.

Love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient. Love never disappears.

If in this life we have nothing but a mere hope in Christ, we are of all men to be pitied most!

But it is not so! Christ did rise from the dead.
For since death came by man,
by man came also resurrection from the dead;
as all die in Adam,
so shall all be made alive in Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a life of hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; the power of God protects you by faith till you do inherit the salvation which is all ready to be revealed at the last hour. You will rejoice then, though for the passing moment you may need to suffer various trials; for the moment you do not see him, but you believe in him, and you will thrill with an unspeakable and glorious joy to obtain the outcome of your faith in the salvation of your souls.

May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in your faith, that you may be overflowing with hope, by the power of the holy Spirit!

EVENING

On him the Eternal laid the guilt of all of us.

For in Christ God reconciled the world to himself instead of counting men's trespasses against them.

For our sakes He made him to be sin who himself knew nothing of sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

We ourselves were once senseless, disobedient, astray, enslaved to all manner of passions and pleasures; we spent our days in malice and envy, we were hateful, and we hated one another. But "the goodness and affection of God our Saviour appeared; and he saved us, not for any good deeds we had done but from his own pity for us, by the water that means regeneration and renewal under the holy Spirit which he poured upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs to the hope of life eternal."

He bore our sins, that we might break with sin and live the good life; it is by his wounds that you have been healed. You were indeed astray like sheep, but you have come back now to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

MORNING

Seek the Eternal, all you humble folk,
who do his bidding.

Kind and upright is the Eternal,
guiding humble souls aright.

The Eternal has seen what I suffer, and pitied me,
lifting me from the very gates of death,
that in the gates of Sion I may chant his praise,
exulting in his aid.
He gives grace more and more; thus it is said,
The haughty God opposes,
but to the humble he gives grace.
Well then, submit yourselves to God;
resist the devil,
and he will fly from you:
draw near to God,
and he will draw near to you.

Live a life worthy of your calling, with perfect modesty and gentleness, showing forbearance to one another patiently, zealous in love to preserve the unity of the Spirit by binding peace upon yourselves. For there is one Body and one Spirit—as you were called for the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over us all, who pervades us all, who is within us all.

EVENING

The gentleness and consideration of Christ.

For he feeds his flock like a shepherd,
and gathers them in his arms,
he is carrying the lambs in his bosom,
and leading the ewes gently.

Jesus was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me, do not stop them: the Realm of God belongs to such as these."

Looking up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." Jesus said, "Neither do I; be off, and never sin again."

Come to me, all ye labouring and burdened, and I will refresh you.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find your souls refreshed;
my yoke is kindly and my burden light.

MORNING

A good man may fall seven times, but he rises.

Trust in the Eternal and do right,
be loyal to him within his land;
make the Eternal your delight,
and he will give you all your heart's desire.

Noticing his disciples, (Jesus) reproved Peter, telling him, "Get behind me, you Satan! Your outlook is not God's but man's."

Simon, Simon, Satan has claimed the right to sift you all like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail. "Lord," he said, "I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow to-day before you have three times denied me."

The Lord turned round and looked at Peter, and then Peter remembered what the Lord had told him, that "Before cock-crow to-day, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

No one is justified on the score of the Law before God (plainly, "by faith shall the just live,"—and the Law is not based on faith: no, "he who performs these things shall live by them"), Christ ransomed us from the curse of the Law by becoming accursed for us.

He is himself the propitiation for our sins, though not for ours alone but also for the whole world.

EVENING

Whatsoever we achieve is all thy doing.

All we are given is good, and all our endowments are faultless, descending from above, from the Father of the heavenly lights, who knows no change of rising and setting, who casts no shadow on the earth. It was his own will that we should be born by the Word of the truth, to be a kind of firstfruits among his creatures.

It is God who in his goodwill enables you to will this and to achieve it. In all that you do, avoid grumbling and disputing, so as to be blameless and innocent, faultless children of God in a crooked and perverse generation where you shine like stars in a dark world.

God has made us what we are, creating us in Christ Jesus for the good deeds which are prepared beforehand by God as our sphere of action.

All comes from him, all lives by him, all ends in him. Glory to him for ever.

Instead of being moulded to this world, have your mind renewed, and so be transformed in nature, able to make out what the will of God is, namely, what is good and acceptable to him and perfect.

MORNING

Instead of being moulded to this world, have your mind renewed, and so be transformed in nature.

Keep out of all incongruous ties with unbelievers.
  What compact can there be between God's temple and idols?
  For we are the temple of the living God—as God has said.
I will dwell and move among them.
  I will be their God and they shall be my people.
Therefore come away from them
    separate, saith the Lord,
    touch not what is unclean.
  Do you not know that the world's friendship means enmity to God?
Whoever, then, chooses to be the world's friend, turns enemy to God.
"He yearns jealously for the spirit he set within us."
  To the humble he gives grace.

Love not the world, nor yet what is in the world. For all that is in the world, the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the proud glory of life is passing away, while he who does the will of God remains for ever.

EVENING

Let us joy in him
  who rules for ever by his power.

Those who turn to the Eternal lack no good.
Keep your tongue from evil,
  keep your lips from deceit;
shun evil and do good,
  seek to be friendly—aim at that.
For the Eternal turns his eyes towards good men,
  his ears are open to their cry;
when they cry, the Eternal listens,
  he rescues them from all their troubles.

Who ever moved the mind of the Eternal,
  or gave him lessons and advice?
  Who ever taught him how to act,
  or showed him what to do?
Come now! Do you not understand,
  have you not heard,
that the Eternal is an everlasting God,
  the maker of the world from end to end?
He never faints, never is weary,
  his insight is unsearchable.

The Eternal saves his servants' life.

MORNING

Bear yourselves uprightly before pagans; so that they may come to glorify God.

If you are denounced for the sake of Christ, you are blessed; for then the Spirit of God himself is resting on you.

You are the elect race, the royal priesthood, the consecrated nation, the People who belong to Him, that you may proclaim the wondrous deeds of Him who has called you from darkness to his wonderful light.

For it is the will of God that by your honest lives you should silence the ignorant charges of foolish persons. Live like free men, only never make your freedom a pretext for misconduct; live like servants of God.

You have heard the saying, "You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes insipid, what can make it salt again?

You are the light of the world. Your light is to shine before men, that they may see the good you do and glorify your Father in heaven.

EVENING

Leave all to him, rely on him, and he will see to it.

Is anything too hard for the Eternal?
I admit thou canst do anything,
that nothing is too hard for thee.

The prayers of the righteous have a powerful effect.

The prayer of faith will restore the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; even the sins he has committed will be forgiven him. So confess your sins to one another and pray for one another.

Ere ever they call to me, I answer,
and while they speak I hear.

Never be anxious, but always make your requests known to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; so shall God's peace, that surpasses all our dreams, keep guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

MORNING

Tears may visit us at night,
but in the morning there are shouts of joy.

When I was prospering, I thought
I never would be shaken;
but when thy favour was withdrawn,
I fell into dismay.
I cried to thee, Eternal One,
appealing to my God,
And thou didst change my mourning into dancing,
stripping my sackcloth, girdling me with joy.

The power of God protects you by faith till you inherit the salvation which is ready to be revealed at the last hour. You will rejoice then, though for the passing moment you may need to suffer various trials; that is only to prove your faith, and it redounds to your praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The sun shall no more be your light by day,
nor shall the moon shed light on you,
for your unending light shall be the Eternal,
and mourning days will never come again.

Never again will they be hungry, never again athirst;
God shall wipe every tear from their eyes.

EVENING

We enjoy our redemption, the forgiveness of our trespasses, by the blood he shed.

While every priest stands daily at his service, offering the same sacrifice repeatedly, sacrifices which never can take sins away, He offered a single sacrifice for sins and then seated himself for all time at the right hand of God. For by a single offering he has made the sanctified perfect for all time.

Since we thus have confidence to enter the holy Presence in virtue of the blood of Jesus, by the fresh, living way which he has inaugurated for us through the veil (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart, in absolute assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled clean from a bad conscience, and our bodies washed in pure water.

For all time he is able to save those who approach God through him, as he is always living to intercede on their behalf.

Let us hold the hope we avow without wavering, and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good deeds.

MORNING

He who possesses the Son possesses life.

For as the Father has life in himself, so too he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

The Son can do nothing of his own accord, nothing but what he sees the Father doing. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he is doing himself. As the Father raises the dead and makes them live, so the Son makes anyone live whom he chooses. The Father passes judgment on no one; he has committed the judgment to the Son. He who listens to my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he will incur no sentence of judgment, he has already passed from death across to life.

I am myself resurrection and life:
he who believes in me will live, even if he dies.

The thief only comes to steal, to slay, and to destroy: I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

Lifting his eyes to heaven, he said: "Father, glorify thy Son that thy Son may glorify thee, since thou hast granted him power to give eternal life to all whom thou hast given to him. And this is life eternal, that they know thee, the only real God, and him whom thou hast sent, even Jesus Christ."

And the testimony is, that God gave us life eternal and this life is in his Son.

EVENING

We have been receiving grace after grace from his fulness.

If anyone loves me he will obey my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and take up our abode with him. He who possesses my commands and obeys them is he who loves me, and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and appear to him.

Now this is what he has promised you, eternal life. I am writing to you in this way about those who would deceive you, but the unction you received from him remains within you, and you really need no teaching from anyone; simply remain in him, for his unction teaches you about everything and is true.

Remain in me, as I remain in you: just as a branch cannot bear fruit by itself, without remaining on the vine, neither can you, unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who remains in me, as I in him, bears rich fruit. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then ask whatever you like and you shall have it. As you bear rich fruit and prove yourselves my disciples, my Father is glorified.

MORNING

Cease not to listen to instruction,
and never turn away from a wise teacher.

Better a morsel of dry bread and peace
than a house full of banqueting and quarrels.
Better a poor man of honest life
than a false man, for all his wealth.
Justice and fairness
please the Eternal more than sacrifices.

Never say, "I will revenge my wrongs";
wait for the Eternal to help you.

A generous man will have God's blessing,
because he shares his food with poor folk.
If your enemy is hungry give him food,
and give him water if he thirsts;
for so you shall quench blazing passions.

Never envy evil men,
but always reverence the Eternal;
for something will yet come to you,
your hope will not be lost.

EVENING

I will be a Father to you,
saith the Lord almighty.

Let this be how you pray:
"our Father in heaven,
thy name be revered,
thy Reign begin,
thy will be done."

Stretching out his hand towards his disciples he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven, that is my brother and sister and mother."

You are all sons of God by your faith in Christ Jesus (for all of you who had yourselves baptized into Christ have taken on the character of Christ). It is because you are sons that God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying "Abba! Father." So you are servant no longer, but son, and as son you are also heir, all owing to God.

Truly, truly I tell you, whatever you ask the Father, he will give you in my name; hitherto you have asked nothing in my name; ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

MORNING

But each one of us is granted his own grace, as determined by the full measure of Christ's gift.

The Logos became flesh and tarried among us; we have seen his glory—glory such as an only son enjoys from his father—seen it to be full of grace and reality. For we have all been receiving grace after grace from his fulness; while the Law was given through Moses, grace and reality are ours through Jesus Christ.

He who believes in the Son of God possesses that testimony within himself. He who possesses the Son possesses life.

He granted some men to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, some to shepherd and teach, for the equipment of the saints, for the business of the ministry, for the upbuilding of the Body of Christ, till we should all attain the unity of the faith and knowledge of God's Son, reaching maturity, reaching the full measure of development which belongs to the fulness of Christ.

You must serve one another, each with the talent he has received, as efficient stewards of God's varied grace.

EVENING

It is not a question of human will or effort but of the divine mercy.

Like sheep we had all gone astray,
  we had each taken his own way,
and on him the Eternal laid
  the guilt of all of us.
He treats us not according to our sins,
  he deals not with us as our guilt deserves.
As far as east from the west,
  so far he puts our sins away from us.

Sin's wage is death, but God's gift is life eternal in Christ Jesus our Lord. What do you possess that has not been given you? And if it was given you, why do you boast as if it had been gained, not given?

So by all the stimulus of Christ, live in harmony, with one heart and soul, never acting for private ends or from vanity, but humbly considering each other the better man, and each with an eye to the interests of others as well as to his own. Treat one another with the same spirit as you experience in Christ Jesus. Though he was divine by nature, he did not set store upon equality with God, but emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant; born in human guise and appearing in human form, he humbly stooped in his obedience even to die, and to die upon the cross.

MORNING

The haughty God opposes, but to the humble he gives grace.

God's sacrifice is a soul with its evil crushed:
  a heart broken with penitence, O God, never wilt thou despise.
For he who is high and uplifted, the Majestic One,
  he who sits enthroned for evermore, declares:
"I sit on high, enthroned, the Majestic One,
  and I am with the crushed and humbled soul,
to revive the spirit of the humble,
  and to put heart into the crushed."
The Eternal is near the broken-hearted,
  and for crushed spirits he has help.

The disciples asked Jesus, "Who is greatest in the Realm of heaven?" So he called a child, set it among them, and said, "I tell you truly, unless you turn and become like children, you will never get into the Realm of heaven at all. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the Realm of heaven.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
  for I am gentle and humble in heart,
  and you will find your souls refreshed;
  my yoke is kindly and my burden light."

EVENING

Blessed are the mourners!
they will be consoled.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has put down death and brought life and immortality to light by the gospel.

Then he said to Thomas, "Look at my hands, put your finger here; and put your hand here into my side; be no more unbelieving but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "You believe because you have seen me? Blessed be those who believe though they have never seen me."

I know that if this earthly tent of mine is taken down, I get a home from God, made by no human hands, eternal in the heavens.

Death is swallowed up in victory.
O Death, where is your victory?
O Death, where is your sting?
The victory is ours, thank God! He makes it ours by our Lord Jesus Christ.

MORNING

The law of the Spirit brings the life which is in Christ Jesus, and that law has set me free from the law of sin and death.

You are servants of the master you obey, whether it is Sin, whose service ends in death, or Obedience, whose service ends in righteousness. Thank God, though you did serve sin, you have passed into the service of righteousness. As you once dedicated your members to the service of vice and lawlessness, so now dedicate them to the service of righteousness that means consecration. When you served sin, what did you gain then by it? The end of all that is death; but now that you are set free from sin, now that you have passed into the service of God, your gain is consecration, and the end of that is life eternal.

Live like free men, only never make your freedom a pretext for misconduct: live like servants of God.

He who gazes into the faultless law of freedom and remains in that position, proving himself to be no forgetful listener but an active agent, he will be blessed in his activity.

If you abide by what I say, you are really disciples of mine: you will understand the truth, and the truth will set you free.

EVENING

Let me see thy majesty!

Above the vault over their heads was the semblance of a throne, blue like a sapphire, and on the throne-like appearance there was the semblance of a human form; from the waist upwards I saw Something glowing like amber or fire, from the waist downwards there was Something resembling fire, while all around there was a bright halo like the rainbow that appears in the clouds after rain. Such was the appearance of what resembled the Splendour of the Eternal.

So I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me; and on turning round I saw seven golden lampstands and in the middle of the lampstands One who resembled a human being, with a long robe, and a belt of gold round his breast; his head and hair were white as wool, white as snow; his eyes flashed like fire, his feet glowed like burnished bronze, his voice sounded like many waves, in his right hand he held seven stars, a sharp sword with a double edge issued from his mouth, and his face shone like the sun in full strength.

Nobody has ever seen God, but God has been unfolded by the divine One, the only Son, who lies upon the Father's breast.

God who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," has shone within my heart to illuminate men with the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Christ.

MORNING

As for me, I hope on.

For thou art my hope, O Lord,
I have trusted thee, my strength and shelter.

By remaining steadfast and drawing encouragement from the scriptures we may cherish hope.

The hopes of good men end in bliss:
bad men lose what they look for.

I will . . . make the dale of Trouble a door of hope [says the Eternal].

Let us enjoy the peace we have with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we triumph in the hope of God's glory. Not only so, but we triumph even in our troubles, knowing that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope—a hope which never disappoints us, since God's love floods our hearts through the holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Happy the man whose help is Jacob's God,
whose hope lies in the Eternal One, his God,
Maker of heaven and earth
and sea, and all they hold.
He remains ever true.

EVENING

God's peace, that surpasses all our dreams, keep guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Never be anxious, but always make your requests known to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving.

Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings?
Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.
But the very hairs on your head are all numbered;
fear not, you are worth far more than sparrows.

They got up and returned that very hour to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven and their friends all gathered, who told them that the Lord had really risen and that he had appeared to Simon. As they were speaking He stood among them [and said to them, "Peace to you!"].

O Death, where is your sting?

Peace I leave to you, my peace I give to you; I give it not as the world gives its "Peace!" Let not your hearts be disquieted.

The Lord of peace himself grant you peace continually, whatever comes.

MORNING

The Eternal also said to Aaron, "You shall hold no property in this land, you shall have no share in it; I am your property, I am your share in life."

Sell what you possess and give it away in alms,
make purses for yourselves that never wear out:
get treasure in heaven that never fails,
that no thief can get at, no moth destroy.
For where your treasure lies,
your heart will lie there too.

You have received the Spirit of sonship. We are children of God; and if children, heirs as well, heirs of God, heirs along with Christ—for we share his sufferings in order to share his glory.

O God, thou art my God, I yearn for thee,
body and soul, I thirst, I long for thee,
like a land without water, weary, dry.
As I have seen thee in the sanctuary,
with visions of thy power and majesty,
so will I bless thee while I live,
lifting my hands in prayer to thee.

Thy love is more than life to me;
so my lips praise thee.
My soul is richly fed,
and with glad lips I sing thy praise.

EVENING

It is enough for you to have my grace: it is in weakness that my power is fully felt.

For the "foolishness" of God is wiser than men,
and the "weakness" of God is stronger than men.

Come to me, all ye labouring and burdened, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find your souls refreshed.

The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.
Watch and pray, all of you, that you may not slip into temptation.

Thou dost protect and prosper steadfast souls,
for they rely on thee.
Always rely on the Eternal,
for the Eternal's strength endures.

May his glorious might nerve you with full power to endure and to be patient cheerfully.

MORNING

God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain within my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain within my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain within his love.

I have told you this, that my joy may be within you and your joy complete. This is my command: you are to love one another as I have loved you.

Beloved, I am not writing you any new command, but an old command which you have had from the very beginning: the old command is the word you have heard. And yet it is a new command that I am writing to you—realized in him and also in yourselves, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. He who says he is "in the light" and hates his brother, is in darkness still. He who loves his brother remains in the light—and in the light there is no pitfall.

For this is the message you have learned from the very beginning, that we are to love one another.

God proves his love for us by this, that Christ died for us when we were still sinners.

God no one has ever seen; but if we love one another, then God remains within us, and love for him is complete in us.

EVENING

From earth's far end I call to thee,
as my heart faints.
When troubles are too strong for me,
do thou direct me.

When poor, forlorn folk vainly seek for water,
with tongues that are parched by thirst,
I the Eternal will answer them,
I Israel's God will not forsake them;
on the bare heights I will open rivers,
and in the valleys fountains,
I will make deserts into lakes,
and dry land into springs of water.

Though the fig-tree may not blossom,
though no fruit is on the vine,
though the olive crop has failed,
though the fields give us no food,
though the folds have lost their flocks,
and in the stalls no cattle lie,
yet in the Eternal we will find our joy,
we will rejoice in the God who saves us.

We know also that those who love God, those who have been called in terms of his purpose, have his aid and interest in everything. For he decreed of old that those whom he predestined should share the likeness of his Son—that he might be the first-born of a great brotherhood.

MORNING

There is a friend more loyal than a brother.

Jonathan's soul was knit to David's—Jonathan loved him as himself.

Then David sang this dirge over Jonathan.

Jonathan slain in the field of battle,
my heart is sore for you,
O Jonathan, my brother!
You were my dear delight,
your love for me was a wonder, far
beyond a woman's love.

Better a frank word of reproof
than the love that will not speak.
Wounds from a friend are honest,
but an enemy's kisses are false.

You are my friends—if you do what I command you; I call you servants no longer, because a servant does not know what his master is doing: I call you friends, because I have imparted to you all that I have learned from my Father.

Fear not, for I am with you,
I am your God, be not dismayed;
I will strengthen you, I will support you,
I will uphold you with my trusty hand.

EVENING

It is new heavens and a new earth that we expect, as He has promised, and in them dwells righteousness.

Then I saw the new heaven and the new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away; and the sea is no more. And I saw the holy City, the new Jerusalem, descending from God out of heaven, all ready like a bride, arrayed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, crying,

"Lo, God's dwelling-place is with men,
with men will he dwell;
they shall be his people,
and God will himself be with them:
he shall wipe every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more—
no more wailing, no more crying, no more pain,
for the former things have passed away."

Then, beloved, as you are expecting this, be eager to be found by him unspotted and unblemished in serene assurance.

Lay aside the old nature which belonged to your former course of life, putting on the new nature, that divine pattern which has been created in the upright and pious character of the Truth.

MORNING

For the Eternal does not see as man sees; man looks at the outward appearance, but the Eternal looks at the heart.

You are the people who get men to think you are good, but God knows what your hearts are! What is lofty in the view of man is loathsome in the eyes of God.

What profit will it be if a man gains the whole world and forfeits his own soul?

Make no mistake—God is not to be mocked—a man will reap just what he sows; he who sows for his flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, and he who sows for the Spirit will reap life eternal from the Spirit.

Take care not to practise your charity before men in order to be noticed. When you give alms,
never let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
so as to keep your alms secret;
then your Father who sees what is secret will reward you openly.

For the Eternal is a God who knows it all,
and what men do he judges.

EVENING

Oh for the wings of a dove
to fly afar and be at rest!
Fain would I fly from it all.

I know that if this earthly tent of mine is taken down, I get a home from God, made by no human hands, eternal in the heavens. It makes me sigh, indeed, this yearning to be under cover of my heavenly habitation, since I am sure that once so covered I shall not be "naked" at the hour of death. I do sigh within this tent of mine with heavy anxiety—not that I want to be stripped, no, but to be under cover of the other, to have my mortal element absorbed by life.

Christ . . . left you an example, and you must be following his footsteps.

While daylight lasts, we must be busy with the work of him who sent me: night comes, when no one can do any work.

We must run our appointed course with steadiness, our eyes fixed upon Jesus as the pioneer and the perfection of faith—upon Jesus who, in order to reach his own appointed joy, steadily endured the cross. Yes, compare him who steadily endured all that hostility from sinful men, so as to keep your own hearts from fainting and failing.

For the Lord disciplines the man he loves,
and scourges every son whom he receives.
It is for discipline that you have to endure.

MORNING

Well then, my beloved brothers, hold your ground, immovable; abound in work for the Lord at all times, for you may be sure that in the Lord your labour is never thrown away.

For the case is that of a man going abroad, who summoned his servants and handed over his property to them; to one he gave twelve hundred pounds, to another five hundred, and to another two hundred and fifty; each got according to his capacity. Long afterwards, the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them.

For the Son of man is coming in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will reward everyone for what he has done.

Our talents differ with the grace that is given us; if the talent is that of prophecy, let us employ it in proportion to our faith; if it is practical service, let us mind our service; the teacher must mind his teaching, the speaker his words of counsel; the contributor must be liberal, the superintendent must be in earnest, the sick visitor must be cheerful. Let your love be a real thing, with a loathing for evil and a bent for what is good. Put affection into your love for the brotherhood; be forward to honour one another; never let your zeal flag; maintain the spiritual glow; serve the Lord.

EVENING

Happy the man who trusts in the Eternal.

For he is the living God,
for ever he endures,
his kingdom never shall be overthrown,
and his dominion has no end:
he saves and rescues,
he does signal acts in heaven and earth:

But dead in trespasses as we were, God was so rich in mercy that for his great love to us he made us live together with Christ (it is by grace you have been saved); together with Christ he raised us and seated us within the heavenly sphere in Christ Jesus, to display throughout ages to come his surpassing wealth of grace and goodness toward us in Christ Jesus. It is by grace you have been saved, as you had faith: it is not your doing but God's gift.

You have also heard in him the message of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, and in him you also by your faith have been stamped with the seal of the long-promised holy Spirit, which is the pledge and instalment of our common heritage, that we may obtain our divine possession and so redound to the praise of his glory.

MORNING

The nature of his work will come out; the Day will show what it is.

Take care, keep awake and pray; you never know the time. It is like a man leaving his house to go abroad; he puts his servants in charge, each with his work to do, and he orders the porter to keep watch.

Then the servant who had got the twelve hundred pounds came forward, bringing twelve hundred more; he said, "You handed me twelve hundred pounds, sir; here I have gained another twelve hundred." His master said to him, "Capital, you excellent and trusty servant! You have been trusty in charge of a small sum: I will put you in charge of a large sum. Come and share your master's feast."

Seen not by men but by your Father who is in secret,
and your Father who sees what is secret will reward you.

Whoever gives you a cup of water, because you belong to Christ, I tell you truly, he shall not miss his reward.

God has set people within the church to be apostles, prophets, teachers, healers, helpers, administrators.

Set your heart on the higher talents.

EVENING

He satisfies their longing thirst,
and fills them in their hunger.

He has satisfied the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me will never be hungry, and he who believes in me will never again be thirsty."

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for goodness!
they will be satisfied.

"What father among you, if asked by his son for a loaf, will hand him a stone?—
or, if asked for a fish, will hand him a serpent instead of a fish?—
or, if asked for an egg, will he hand him a scorpion?
Well, if for all your evil you know to give your children what is good,
how much more will your Father give the holy Spirit from heaven to those who ask him?"

Whom have I in heaven but thee?
On earth I care for nothing else.
Body and soul may fail,
but God my strength is mine, my own for evermore.

MORNING

"If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

Laziness ends in a deep sleep;
  an idle man shall be hungry.
A lazy man's ease is his undoing,
  for his hands will not labour;
all the day long he rests at ease.

I passed by the field of the slothful,
  by the vineyard of the thriftless:
and there it lay, all overgrown with thistles.
"Let me sleep for a little, a little,
  let me fold my hands for a little, to rest?"—
yes, and poverty will pounce on you,
  want will overpower you.

Go to the ant, you sluggard,
  look at her ways, learn sense;
for she has no leader,
  no foreman or chief,
yet in the summer she provides her food,
  and gathers during harvest-days.

In the Lord Jesus Christ we charge and exhort you to keep quiet, to do your work and earn your own living.

EVENING

The Eternal delights in those who revere him,
  who trust to his own goodness.

Abraham believed God—he was called God's friend.

Can a woman forget her infant,
  forget to pity her babe?
Yet even were a mother to forget,
  never will I forget you.

You were estranged, your hearts hostile to him in evil doing; but now he has reconciled you by dying in his mortal body, so as to set you consecrated and unblemished and irreproachable in his presence—that is, if you adhere to the foundations and stability of the faith, instead of shifting from the hope you have learned in the gospel.

What no eye has ever seen,
what no ear has ever heard,
God has prepared all that for those who love him.
And God has revealed it to us by the Spirit.

And when we cry, "Abba! Father!", it is this Spirit testifying along with our own spirit that we are children of God; and heirs along with Christ—for we share his sufferings in order to share his glory.

MORNING

The Eternal does not save by sword and spear—the fight is in the Eternal's hands.

Courage, all, says the Eternal! Courage, do your work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts.

"Not by fighting, not by force, but by my spirit!"
so the Lord of hosts declares.

Then Jesus came forward to them and said, "Full authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth, go and make disciples of all nations. And all the time I will be with you, to the very end of the world."

A severe persecution broke out against the church and all were scattered. Now those who were scattered went through the land preaching the gospel.

'Tis God who rules o'er men,
this ones he lowers, this one he lifts.

After that I looked, and there was a great host whom no one could count, from every nation and tribe and people and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clad in white robes, with palm-branches in their hands; and they cried with a loud voice, "Saved by our God who is seated on the throne, and by the Lamb!"

EVENING

He heals the broken-hearted
and binds up their wounds.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me:
for he has consecrated me to preach the gospel to the poor,
he has sent me to proclaim release for captives,
and recovery of sight for the blind.

Jesus was at table indoors, and many taxgatherers and sinners had come to be guests with him and his disciples. So when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with taxgatherers and sinners?" When Jesus heard it he said, "Those who are strong have no need of a doctor, but those who are ill. Go and learn the meaning of this word, 'I care for mercy, not for sacrifice.' For I have not come to call just men but sinners."

When Jesus disembarked he saw a large crowd, and out of pity for them, as they were like sheep without a shepherd, he proceeded to teach them at length.

Come to me, all ye labouring and burdened,
and I will refresh you.

MORNING

The hopes of good men end in bliss.

We rest our hopes on the Eternal,
we wait for him, our help and shield;
in him our heart rejoices.

Present suffering, I hold, is a mere nothing compared to the glory that we are to have revealed.

When an object of hope is seen, there is no further need to hope. Who ever hopes for what he sees already? But if we hope for something that we do not see, we wait for it patiently.

As it is written,
what no eye has ever seen,
what no ear has ever heard,
what never entered the mind of man,
God has prepared all that for those who love him.

And I saw the holy City, the new Jerusalem, descending from God out of heaven, all ready like a bride arrayed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, crying,

"he shall wipe every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more—
no more wailing, no more crying, no more pain,
for the former things have passed away."

EVENING

For you have not yet reached the resting-place and possession which the Eternal your God is to give you.

Strangers and exiles upon earth, they aspire to the better land in heaven.

There is a sabbath-Rest reserved still for the People of God.

We have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us, anchoring the soul to it safe and secure, as it enters the inner Presence behind the veil.

There Jesus entered for us in advance.

"Lo, God's dwelling-place is with men,
with men will he dwell;
they shall be his people,
and God will himself be with them."

Mind what is above, not what is on earth.

MORNING

Life thrives like a tree on generosity,
but grasping greed is death to men.

A kind man helps his own life:
a cruel man harms himself.

One gives away, and still he grows the richer:
another keeps what he should give, and he is the poorer.
A liberal soul will be enriched,
and he who waters will himself be watered.

A good man cares even for his beast,
but the bad man has a cruel heart.

A man sins if he looks down on his neighbour;
but if he pities the poor, blessed is he.

Do not evil-minded men fare miserably?
Good-natured men find people kind and true.

He who is hard on the forlorn reviles his Maker:
he honours his Maker who is kindly to the poor.

He who cares for the poor is lending to the Eternal,
and for his kindness he shall be repaid.

Fraud is the aim of evil-minded men,
but those who plan the good of others prosper.

EVENING

For he must reign until all his foes are put under his feet.

Jesus replied, "My realm does not belong to this world; if my realm did belong to this world, my men would have fought to prevent me being handed over to the Jews. No, my realm lies elsewhere." "So you are a king?" said Pilate. "You!" "Certainly," said Jesus, "I am a king. This is why I was born, this is why I came into the world, to bear testimony to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

"Not by fighting, not by force, but by my spirit!"
so the Lord of hosts declares.

Treat one another with the same spirit as you experience in Christ Jesus. Though he was divine he humbly stooped in his obedience even to die, and to die upon the cross. Therefore God raised him high and conferred on him a Name above all names, so that before the Name of Jesus every knee should bend in heaven, on earth, and underneath the earth, and every tongue confess that "Jesus Christ is Lord," to the glory of God the Father.

Death is the last foe to be put down.

MORNING

Anyone who chooses to do his will, shall understand my teaching comes from God.

The eye is the lamp of the body:
so, if your Eye is generous,
the whole of your body will be illumined,
but if your Eye is selfish,
the whole of your body will be darkened.
And if your very light turns dark,
then—what a darkness it is!

He who belongs to God listens to the words of God.

The real Light, which enlightens every man, was coming then into the world:
he entered the world—
the world which existed through him—
yet the world did not recognize him.

You have heard the saying, "You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies.
For if you love only those who love you, what reward do you get for that?
do not the very pagans do as much?
You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

EVENING

God is a shelter and stronghold for us,
we shall find him very near.

Heedless folk fall by their own self-will,
the senseless are destroyed by their indifference;
but safe he lives who listens to me;
from fear of harm he shall be wholly free.

Age after age, Lord, thou hast been our home;
from all eternity thou hast been God.

Jesus spoke to them; "Courage," he said, "it is I, have no fear." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is really you, order me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Then Peter got out of the boat and walked over the water on his way to Jesus; but when he saw the strength of the wind he was afraid, and began to sink. "Lord," he shouted, "save me." Jesus at once stretched his hand out and caught him, saying, "How little you trust me! Why did you doubt?"

Never will he let you slip; he who guards you never sleeps.

I know whom I have trusted, and I am certain that he is able to keep what I have put into his hands, till the great Day.

MORNING

We are children of God.

God formed man in his own likeness, in the likeness of God he formed him.

Your beauty perfect, through the splendour of my endowment—says the Lord the Eternal. But, your beauty made you proud of heart, your brilliance depraved your wisdom.

If any man is proud and haughty,
I will not suffer him.
If a man slander secretly his fellow,
I silence him.
I look out for the faithful in the land,
to have them at my court.

The taxgatherer beat his breast, saying, "O God, have mercy on me for my sins!" I tell you, he went home accepted by God rather than the other man;
for everyone who uplifts himself will be humbled,
and he who humbles himself will be uplifted.

As God's own chosen, then, as consecrated and beloved, be clothed with compassion, kindliness, humility, gentleness, and good temper—forbear and forgive each other in any case of complaint; as Christ forgave you.

EVENING

The pain God is allowed to guide ends in a saving repentance never to be regretted.

After he had spent his all, a severe famine set in throughout that land, and he began to feel in want; so he went and attached himself to a citizen of that land, who sent him to his fields to feed swine. And he was fain to fill his belly with the pods the swine were eating; no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, "How many hired men of my father have more than enough to eat, and here am I perishing of hunger! I will be up and off to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.' "

Discipline always seems for the time to be a thing of pain, not of joy; but those who are trained by it reap the fruit of it afterwards in the peace of an upright life.

So up with your listless hands! Strengthen your weak knees!

Thou hast been good to thy servant, as thou didst promise;
train me in judgment and knowledge, for I believe in thy commands;
before my trouble I went wrong, but now I do thy bidding.

He shall not crush a broken reed,
nor quench a wick that dimly burns.

MORNING

I would know him in the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings.

So they took Jesus, and he went away, carrying the cross by himself, to the spot called the "place of the skull"—the Hebrew name is Golgotha; there they crucified him, along with two others, one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

He showed them his hands and his side; and when the disciples saw the Lord, they rejoiced. Jesus then repeated, "Peace be with you! As the Father sent me forth, I am sending you forth." And with these words he breathed on them, adding, "Receive the holy Spirit!"

Do not be surprised at the ordeal that has come to test you. You are sharing what Christ suffered. If you are denounced for the sake of Christ, you are blessed; for then the Spirit of glory and power, the Spirit of God himself, is resting on you. If a man suffers for being a Christian, he should glorify God.

The slight trouble of the passing hour results in a solid glory past all comparison, for those of us whose eyes are on the unseen, not on the seen; for the seen is transient, the unseen eternal.

Present suffering, I hold, is a mere nothing compared to the glory that we are to have revealed.

EVENING

For it is through him that we enjoy our access to the Father in one Spirit.

For the real worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in reality; for these are the worshippers that the Father desires. God is Spirit, and his worshippers must worship him in Spirit and in reality.

So too the Spirit assists us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray aright, but the Spirit pleads for us with sighs that are beyond words, and He who searches the human heart knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, since the Spirit pleads before God for the saints.

What human being can understand the thoughts of a man,
  except the man's own inner spirit?
So too no one understands the thoughts of God,
  except the Spirit of God.

Now we have received the Spirit—not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that comes from God, that we may understand what God bestows upon us.

Now the confidence we have in him is this, that he listens to us whenever we ask anything in accordance with his will; and if we know that he listens to whatever we ask, we know that we obtain the requests we have made to him.

MORNING

Unless your goodness excels that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the Realm of heaven.

Take care not to practise your charity so as to win applause from men.

You Pharisees do clean the outside of the cup and the plate,
but your inner life is filled with rapacity and malice.
But woe to you Pharisees!
you tithe mint and rue and every vegetable,
but justice and the love of God you disregard;
these latter you ought to have practised—without omitting the former.

I may speak with the tongues of men and of angels,
but if I have no love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
I may distribute all I possess in charity,
I may give up my body to be burnt,
but if I have no love,
I make nothing of it.

Make love your aim, and then set your heart on spiritual gifts.

EVENING

If he cries to me, I will listen to his cry, for I am pitiful.

Remember us in thy goodwill, Eternal,
oh save and prosper thine own people.
For, like our fathers, we have sinned,
we have done evil, have done wickedly.

Let guilty men give up their ways,
and evil men their purposes;
let them turn back to the Eternal,
who will pity them,
turn back to our God, for he
will pardon them abundantly.

The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I don't deserve to be called your son any more." But the father said to his servants, "Quick, bring the best robe and put it on him, give him a ring for his hand and sandals for his feet, and bring the fatted calf, kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for my son here was dead and he has come to life, he was lost and he is found."

So, I tell you, there will be joy in heaven over a single sinner who repents.

MORNING

Let us drop the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of the light; let us live decorously as in the open light of day.

The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. He who says he is "in the light" and hates his brother, is in darkness still. He who loves his brother remains in the light—and in the light there is no pitfall; but he who hates his brother is in darkness, he walks in darkness and does not know where he is going, for the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Jesus addressed them, saying, "I am the light of the world: he who follows me will never walk in darkness, he will enjoy the light of life."

The children of this world look further ahead, in dealing with their own generation, than the children of Light. So be wise like serpents and guileless like doves.

Take heed to yourselves lest your hearts are overpowered by dissipation and drunkenness and worldly anxieties. From hour to hour keep awake, praying that you may succeed in escaping.

EVENING

The Eternal is my light.

The people who sat in darkness saw a great light,
yea, light dawned on those who sat in the land and the shadow of death.

In him life lay,
and this life was the Light for men:
amid the darkness the Light shone,
but the darkness did not master it.

The real Light, which enlightens every man, was coming then into the world.

Then Jesus again addressed them, saying, "I am the light of the world: he who follows me will not walk in darkness, he will enjoy the light of life."

The Light will shine among you for a little longer yet; walk while you have the Light, that the darkness may not overtake you. He who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. While you have the Light, believe in the Light, that you may be sons of the Light.

I have come as light into the world, that no one who believes in me may remain in the dark.

While once upon a time you were darkness, now in the Lord you are light; lead the life of those who are children of the light.

MORNING

It is those who obey the Law who will be acquitted, on the day when God judges the secret things of men, as my gospel holds, by Jesus Christ.

It matters very little that any human court should cross-question me. It is the Lord who cross-questions me. The hour of reckoning has still to come, when the Lord will come to bring dark secrets to the light and to reveal life's inner aims and motives. Then each of us will get his meed of praise from God.

Then shall the just shine like the sun in the Realm of their Father.

There is no doom now for those who are in Christ Jesus; the law of the Spirit brings the life which is in Christ Jesus, and that law has set me free from the law of sin and death.

If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, it is not I who judge him; for I have not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects me and will not receive my words has indeed a judge: the word I have spoken will judge him.

EVENING

But can God really live among men on earth? The very heaven, the height of heaven itself, cannot contain thee; and how much less this temple I have built!

The God who made the world and all things in it, he, as Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in shrines that are made by human hands; he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, for it is he who gives life and breath and all things to all men.

All comes from him, all lives by him, all ends in him.

Then I saw the new heaven and the new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, crying,

"Lo, God's dwelling-place is with men,
with men will he dwell."

This is the compact I make;
I will put my law within them,
writing it on their hearts;
and I will be a God to them,
and they to me a people;
for I will pardon their offences,
their sin I never will recall.

As these great promises are ours, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates either flesh or spirit; let us be fully consecrated by reverence for God.

MORNING

Love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient.

If anyone goes astray from the truth and someone brings him back, understand that he who brings a sinner back from the error of his way saves the man's soul from death and hides a host of his own sins.

Even if anyone be detected in some trespass, my brothers, you must set the offender right in a spirit of gentleness, each of you looking to himself, in case he too is tempted.

If your brother sins against you, go and reprove him, as between you and him alone. If he listens to you, then you have won your brother over; but if he will not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that every case may be decided on the evidence of two or of three witnesses.

Be tender-hearted, be generous to each other as God has been generous to you in Christ.

Copy God, then, as his beloved children, and lead lives of love, just as Christ loved you and gave himself up for you to be a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

EVENING

Always rely on the Eternal,
for the Eternal's strength endures.

He pardons all your sins
And all your sicknesses he heals,
he saves your life from death,
he crowns you with his love
and pity.

He has done a deed of might with his arm,
he has scattered the proud with their purposes,
princes he has dethroned and the poor he has uplifted,
he has satisfied the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

For I am with you, the Eternal promises,
to succour you.

No temptation has waylaid you that is beyond man's power; trust God, he will never let you be tempted beyond what you can stand, but, when temptation comes, he will provide the way out of it, so that you can bear up under it.

Let billows roar and foam,
let mountains shake under the storm:
the Lord of Hosts is at our side,
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

MORNING

As you share the sufferings you share the comfort also.

Let us go to him outside the camp, then, bearing his obloquy.

Christ certainly did not please himself, but, as it is written, The reproaches of those who denounced Thee have fallen upon me.

Do not be surprised at the ordeal that has come to test you, as though some foreign experience befell you. You are sharing what Christ suffered; so rejoice in it, that you may also rejoice and exult when his glory is revealed. If you are denounced for the sake of Christ, you are blessed; for then the Spirit of glory and power, the Spirit of God himself, is resting on you.

Blessed are you when men will hate you,
when they will excommunicate you and denounce you and defame you as wicked, on account of the Son of man;
rejoice on that day and leap for joy!
rich is your reward in heaven—
for their fathers did the very same to the prophets.

EVENING

I will comfort you,
as mothers comfort sons.

See, we call the steadfast happy; you have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the end of the Lord with him, seen that the Lord is very compassionate and pitiful.

The Eternal is good to those who wait for him,
to a soul that seeks him.

The Eternal has consecrated me,
and sent me with good news for wretched men,
to heal the broken-hearted,
to tell prisoners they are free,
to tell captives they are released,
to console all mourners,
to give them coronals for coronachs,
oil of joy for mourning robes,
praise for plaintiveness;
they shall be sturdy oaks of goodness,
planted by the Eternal in his honour.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort, who comforts me in all my distress, so that I am able to comfort people who are in any distress by the comfort with which I myself am comforted by God.

MORNING

Justice and fairness
please the Eternal more than sacrifices.

Different weights are loathsome to the Eternal;
a false balance is unfair.

Sacrifice from evil men God loathes—
much more, when it is offered to atone for crime.

A dishonest witness shall perish,
but a truthful man will never be forgotten.
Intelligence, skill, strategy,
none can avail against the Eternal.

Rob not the poor because he is poor,
waste not the weak with lawsuits;
for the Eternal will take their part,
he will rob robbers of their life.

Better a poor man of honest life
than a false creature, for all his wealth.

Man's conscience is the lamp of the Eternal,
flashing into his inmost soul.

EVENING

Let all your anxieties fall upon Him, for He careth for you.

Ours was the pain he bore,
the sorrow he endured!

But now, the Eternal promises,
"Fear not, for I redeem you,
I claim you, you are mine.
I will be with you when you pass through waters,
no rivers shall overflow you;
when you pass through fire, you shall not be scorched,
no flames shall burn you."

Thou holdest my right hand,
guiding me with thy counsel.
Body and soul may fail,
but God my strength is mine, my own for evermore.

Ours is no high priest who cannot have sympathy with our weaknesses. So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in the hour of need.

For He has said, "Never will I fail you, never will I forsake you."

MORNING

Have patience yourselves, strengthen your hearts.

Hold out steadfast and you win your souls.

By remaining steadfast and drawing encouragement from the scriptures we may cherish hope.

God is not unfair; he will not forget what you have done, or the love you have shown for his sake in ministering, as you still do, to the saints. It is my heart's desire that each of you would prove equally keen upon realizing your full hope to the very end, so that, instead of being slack, you may imitate those who inherit the promises by their steadfast faith.

Steady patience is what you need, so that after doing the will of God you may receive what you were promised.

We triumph even in our troubles, knowing that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope—a hope which never disappoints us, since God's love floods our hearts through the holy Spirit which has been given to us.

EVENING

Whoever is walking in the dark,
let him have confidence in the Eternal.

Darkness is not dark to thee,
the night is clear as daylight.

'Tis for the Eternal to bring help:
my God, thy blessing be upon thy people!

Happy is he who has thy discipline
and thine instruction, training him
calmly to wait on, in adversity.
For the Eternal will not leave his people,
never will he forsake his own.

When I think my foot is slipping,
thy goodness, O Eternal, holds me up;
when doubts crowd into my mind,
thy comforts cheer me.

Then he said to them, "Why are you afraid like this? Have you no faith yet?"

Never let us grow tired of doing what is right, for if we do not faint we shall reap our harvest at the opportune season.

MORNING

In Christ Jesus faith [is] active in love.

I give you a new command, to love one another—as I have loved you, you are to love one another; by this everyone will recognize that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.

I may distribute all I possess in charity,
I may give up my body to be burnt,
but if I have no love,
I make nothing of it.

We recall your active faith and labour of love and patient hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father.

Anyone who does not practise righteousness does not belong to God, and neither does he who has no love for his brother.

Dear children, let us put our love not into words or into talk but into deeds, and make it real.

God has made us what we are, creating us in Jesus Christ for the good deeds which are prepared beforehand by God as our sphere of action.

EVENING

I will answer his cry and be with him in trouble,
delivering him and honouring him.

Have no fear of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

I will instruct you and teach you
what is the road to take;
I will give you counsel,
O humble soul.

He has said,
Never will I fail you, never will I forsake you.
So that we may say confidently,
The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.
What can men do to me?

For I the Eternal your God hold you by the hand,
whispering, "Fear not, I will help you."

Never be anxious, but always make your requests known to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; so shall God's peace, that surpasses all our dreams, keep guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

MORNING

Nothing is hidden that shall not be revealed.

God speaks thus to the godless:
"What right have you to repeat my laws,
  and take my compact on your lips,
when you hate me to control you,
  and toss my rules behind your backs?"

Lofty as heaven itself their speech,
  lording it over the world below.
So people turn to follow them,
  and see no wrong in them,
thinking, "What does God care?
  How can the Almighty heed—when these,
the godless, prosperously fare,
  thriving thus at their ease?"

All you utter in the dark will be heard in the light,
  and what you whisper in chambers will be proclaimed on the housetops.
Have no fear of those who kill the body but after that can do no more;
fear Him who after he has killed has power to cast you into Gehenna.

So do not criticize at all; the hour of reckoning has still to come, when the Lord will come to bring dark secrets to the light and to reveal life's inner aims and motives. Then each of us will get his meed of praise from God.

EVENING

You washed yourselves clean, you were consecrated, you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Like sheep we had all gone astray,
  we had each taken his own way,
And on him the Eternal laid the guilt of all of us.
Yet he was wounded because we had sinned,
  'twas our misdeeds that crushed him;
'twas for our welfare that he was chastised,
  the blows that fell to him have brought us healing.

For when we were still in weakness, Christ died in due time for the ungodly.

Here is the message we learned from him and announce to you: "God is light and in him there is no darkness, none." If we say, "We have fellowship with him," when we live and move in darkness, then we are lying, we are not practising the truth; but if we live and move within the light, as he is within the light, then we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from every sin.

Let us draw near with absolute assurance of faith.

MORNING

The immortal beauty of a gentle and modest spirit, in the sight of God is of rare value.

At that hour the disciples came and asked Jesus, "Who is greatest in the Realm of heaven?" So he called a child, set it among them, and said, "I tell you truly, unless you turn and become like children, you will never get into the Realm of heaven at all. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the Realm of heaven; and whoever receives a little child like this for my sake, receives me."

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart.

This is your vocation; for when Christ suffered for you, he left you an example, and you must be following his footsteps.

He committed no sin,
no guile was ever found upon his lips;
he was reviled and he made no retort,
he suffered and he never threatened.

Love is very patient, very kind. Love knows no jealousy; love makes no parade, gives itself no airs, is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful; love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient. Love never disappears.

EVENING

The Eternal your God is with you wherever you go.

The heavens proclaim his high authority,
all nations see his majesty.

Where could I go from thy Spirit?
I climb to heaven?—but thou art there;
I nestle in the netherworld?—and there thou art!
If I say, "The dark will screen me,"
yet darkness is not dark to thee.

For we are the temple of the living God—as God has said,
I will dwell and move among them,
I will be a Father to you,
and you shall be my sons and daughters.

Ah, love the Eternal, all ye faithful;
the Eternal will keep faith with you.

MORNING

The Lord knows who are his.
Let everyone who names the name of the Lord give up evil.

I am afraid of your thoughts getting seduced from single devotion to Christ. Let your love be a real thing, with a loathing for evil and a bent for what is good.

See to it that no one misses the grace of God, that no root of bitterness grows up to be a trouble by contaminating you.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. For we have to struggle with the spirit-forces of evil. So take God's armour, that you may be able to make a stand and hold your ground by overcoming all the foe.

Tighten the belt of truth about your loins, wear integrity as your coat of mail, and have your feet shod with the stability of the gospel of peace; above all, take faith as your shield, put on salvation as your helmet, and take the Spirit as your sword (that is, the word of God).

EVENING

No sooner had I called to him
than I was praising him for answering me.

Magnify the Eternal with me,
let us exalt him together.
I besought the Eternal
and he answered me.
He rescued me from my terrors.
God of my fathers, thee I thank and praise,
who hast given me wisdom and might,
who hast told me what we asked from thee.

Into the weary he puts power,
and adds new strength to the weak.
Young men may faint and weary,
the strong youths may give way,
but those who wait for the Eternal shall renew their strength,
they put out wings like eagles,
they run and never weary,
they walk and never faint.

They cried to the Eternal in their need,
to save them from their evil plight;
he stilled the storm to a whisper,
till the waves were hushed—
glad were they for the calm—
and then he brought them to their longed-for haven.

MORNING

See how people ought to behave within the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the Truth.

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to consecrate her, in order to have the church as his very own, standing before him in all her glory, with never a spot or wrinkle or any such flaw, but consecrated and unblemished.

He has set him as head over everything for the church which is his Body, filled by him who fills the universe entirely.

The powers of Hades shall not succeed against it.

They devoted themselves to the instruction given by the apostles and to fellowship, breaking bread and praying together. The believers all kept together; they shared all they had with one another, they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds among all, as any one might be in need. Day after day they resorted with one accord to the temple and broke bread together in their own homes; they ate with a glad and simple heart, praising God and looked on with favour by all the people. Meantime the Lord added the saved daily to their number.

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good deeds—not ceasing to meet together, as is the habit of some, but admonishing one another, all the more.

EVENING

The Eternal is my aid;
whom shall I fear?

I will be with you when you pass through waters,
no rivers shall overflow you;
when you pass through fire you shall not be scorched.

In God I trust without a fear:
what can man do to me?

Far better to rely on the Eternal than put faith in men;
far better to rely on the Eternal than put faith in princes.

Men will lay hands on you and persecute you; you will be dragged before kings and governors for the sake of my name. That will turn out an opportunity for you to bear witness. I will give you words and wisdom.

He guides me by true paths,
as he himself is true.
My road may run through a glen of gloom,
but I fear no harm, for thou art beside me;
Thy club, thy staff—they give me courage.

MORNING

He who reverences Him and lives a good life in any nation is welcomed by Him.

If you really fulfil the royal law laid down by scripture, you must love your neighbour as yourself, well and good; but if you pay servile regard to people, you commit a sin, and the Law convicts you of transgression.

The Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were amazed that the gift of the holy Spirit had actually been poured out on the Gentiles. At this Peter asked, "Can anyone refuse water for the baptism of these people—people who have received the holy Spirit just as we ourselves have?"

When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face. The man stood self-condemned. Before certain emissaries of James arrived, he ate along with the Gentile Christians; but when they arrived, he began to draw back and hold aloof, because he was afraid of the circumcision party. The rest of the Jewish Christians also played false along with him, so much so that even Barnabas was carried away by their false play.

God loved the world so dearly that he gave up his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

For this reason, then, I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name and nature.

EVENING

He guides me by true paths,
as he himself is true.

But his own people he led out like sheep,
guiding them in the desert like a flock;
he led them safely on, past any fear.

It was no envoy and no angel,
  'twas his own Presence saved them;
he rescued them himself
  in love and pity,
he lifted them and carried them
  all through the days of old.

Let me see thy ways, O thou Eternal,
  teach me what are thy paths,
lead me, as thou art true to thy word.
Remember thy compassion and thy kindness,
  for they are thine of old, O thou Eternal.

Oh send thy light and faithfulness to lead me,
  to bring me home to thine own sacred hill,
to where thou dwellest!

MORNING

The God of peace who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, will furnish you with everything that is good for the doing of his will.

Not that I am personally qualified; my qualifications come from God.

All our endowments descend from above, from the Father of the heavenly lights, who knows no change of rising and setting, who casts no shadow on the earth. It was his own will that we should be born by the Word of the truth, to be a kind of firstfruits among his creatures.

By all the mercy of God, dedicate your bodies as a living sacrifice, consecrated and acceptable to God. Instead of being moulded to this world, have your mind renewed, and so be transformed in nature, able to make out what the will of God is, namely, what is good and acceptable to him and perfect.

Live in harmony, keep the peace; then the God of love and peace will be with you.

We all mirror the glory of the Lord with face unveiled, and so we are being transformed into the same likeness as himself.

EVENING

The Eternal is a mighty Majesty.

I set the sands to bound the deep,
  a barrier that no breakers shall o'erleap;
the sea may toss, but it cannot prevail,
  the waves may roar, but they cannot reach further.
God sends the rain in spring and autumn due,
  and brings our harvest in its season true.
Why, the nations are a mere drop in the bucket,
  no more to him than dust upon a balance!
He lifts lands like a straw!
  Even Lebanon is not fuel enough for him,
  nor its cattle a sufficient sacrifice.

'Tis God who rules o'er men,
  this one he lowers, this one he lifts.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

MORNING

You are clean, by the word I have spoken to you.

You Pharisees do clean the outside of the cup and the plate,
but your inner life is filled with rapacity and malice.
Better cleanse what is within; then nothing will be unclean for you.

How can a young man keep life clean? By keeping to thy word.
I store thy word within my heart, to keep myself from sinning against thee.
I muse on thy behests and mark thy paths.

If you abide by what I say, you are really disciples of mine: you will understand the truth, and the truth will set you free.

I pray not that thou wilt take them out of the world, but that thou wilt keep them from the evil one. Consecrate them by thy truth: thy word is truth. And for their sake I consecrate myself that they may be consecrated by the truth.

Blessed are the pure in heart!
they will see God.

EVENING

It is new heavens and a new earth that we expect, as He has promised, and in them dwells righteousness.

I will give you a new nature, I will take away your hard nature. I will put my own spirit within you, I will make you live by my laws, and you shall obey and observe my orders.

You must lay aside that nature which crumbles to ruin under the passions of moral deceit, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, putting on the new nature, that divine pattern which has been created in the upright and pious character of the Truth.

Then I saw the new heaven and the new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And I saw the holy City descending from God out of heaven. And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, crying,
"Lo, God's dwelling-place is with men,
he shall wipe every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more—
no more wailing, no more crying, no more pain,
for the former things have passed away."

Then, beloved, as you are expecting this, be eager to be found by him unspotted and unblemished in serene assurance.

MORNING

Seek for me with all your heart.

A scribe came up, who had listened to the discussion. Knowing Jesus had given them an apt answer, he put this question to him, "What is the chief of all the commands?" Jesus replied, "The chief one is: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, with your whole mind, and with your whole strength."

He is the likeness of the unseen God, born first, before all the creation.
Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

In all that you do, avoid grumbling and disputing, so as to be blameless and innocent, faultless children of God in a crooked and perverse generation where you shine like stars in a dark world.

This is how we may be sure we know him, by obeying his commands. He who says, "I know him," but does not obey his commands, is a liar and the truth is not in him; but whoever obeys his word, in him love to God is really complete. This is how we may be sure we are in him: he who says he "remains in him" ought to live as he lived.

EVENING

Evermore shall the Eternal guide you.

O thou Eternal, well thou knowest that man's course lies not in his own hands; it is not in a man to have control over his actions. So correct us, O Eternal One.

"I will instruct you and teach you
  what is the road to take;
I will give you counsel,
  O humble soul."
Be not like mules and colts,
  that do not understand the bridle,
unbroken creatures that require a halter's curb,
  or they will not come near you.
Many a pang falls to the ungodly,
  but he who trusts in the Eternal shall enjoy his favour.

The eye is the lamp of the body:
so, if your Eye is generous,
  the whole of your body will be illumined.

Controlled by the love of Christ.

MORNING

The first thing in knowledge is reverence for the Eternal.

Ever since the world was created, his invisible nature, his everlasting power and divine being, have been quite perceptible in what he has made.

God inspires a man,
'tis the Almighty who breathes knowledge into him.

Is it not Wisdom calling,
Knowledge raising her voice?
O men, I am calling to you,
my appeal is to all men!
O heedless souls, learn insight,
O foolish folk, learn sense!
Be not like mules and colts,
that do not understand the bridle,
Unbroken creatures that require a halter's curb.

Whoever reverences the Eternal, learns
what is the right course to take;
He teaches any who go astray
guiding humble souls aright,
teaching humble souls his way.
Kindly and faithfully he ever deals
with those who keep his
compact and commands.

EVENING

We have confidence to enter the holy Presence in virtue of the blood of Jesus, by the fresh, living way which he has inaugurated for us.

As thou, Father, art in me and I in thee, so may they be in us. I have given them the glory thou gavest me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and thou in me—that they may be made perfectly one.

O just Father, though the world has not known thee, I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me; so have I declared, so will I declare, thy Name to them, that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

I will do whatever you ask in my name, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; I will do whatever you ask me in my name.

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to consecrate her by cleansing her in the bath of baptism as she utters her confession, in order to have the church as his very own, standing before him in all her glory, with never a spot or wrinkle or any such flaw, but consecrated and unblemished.

It is through Him that we . . . enjoy our access to the Father in one Spirit.

MORNING

You are God's house to be built.

The foundation is laid, namely Jesus Christ, and no one can lay any other.

Come to him then—come to that living Stone which men have rejected and God holds choice and precious; come and, like living stones yourselves, be built into a spiritual house, to form a consecrated priesthood for the offering of those spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

You are a building that rests on the apostles and prophets as its foundation, Christ Jesus as the cornerstone; in him the whole structure is welded together and rises into a sacred temple in the Lord, and in him you are yourselves built into this to form a habitation for God in the Spirit.

What compact can there be between God's temple and idols?
For we are the temple of the living God—as God has said,
I will dwell and move among them,
I will be their God and they shall be my people.

EVENING

I will give you a new nature, and I will put a new spirit into you.

Truly, truly I tell you, unless one is born of the Spirit, he cannot enter God's Realm. What is born of the flesh is flesh: what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not wonder at me telling you, "You must all be born from above."

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel when that day comes, saith the Lord;
I will set my laws within their mind,
inscribing them upon their hearts;
I will be a God to them,
and they shall be a People to me.

There is a new creation whenever a man comes to be in Christ; what is old is gone, the new has come.

Lay aside the old nature which belonged to your former course of life, that nature which crumbles to ruin under the passions of moral deceit, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, putting on the new nature, that divine pattern which has been created in the upright and pious character of the Truth.

As for the conqueror, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God.

MORNING

Better a little, with reverence for the Eternal,
than large wealth with worry.

Better a dish of vegetables, with love,
than the best beef served with hatred.

Crafty schemes are loathsome to the Eternal,
but friendly words are a delight to him.
A grasping nature is its own undoing,
but he who hates a bribe shall prosper.

Better a little with honesty,
than a large income with injustice.

Pride ends in disaster;
haughtiness means a downfall.
Better be modest among poor folk
than divide plunder with the proud.
Better a morsel of dry bread and peace
than a house full of banqueting and quarrels.

Better a poor man of honest life
than a false man, for all his wealth.

Money made hurriedly at the start
turns out unblessed at the end.

EVENING

He who relies on the Eternal,
happy is he.

Far better to rely on the Eternal than put faith in men;
far better to rely on the Eternal than put faith in princes.

God is a shelter and stronghold for us,
therefore we never fear.
Let billows roar and foam,
let mountains shake under the storm:
the Lord of Hosts is at our side,
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

When a man's life pleases the Eternal,
he gives him a sure footing;
he may fall, but he never falls down,
for the Eternal holds him by the hand.

If God is for us, who can be against us? The God who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, surely He will give us everything besides!

God is my deliverance,
I trust him unafraid;
the Eternal is my strength.

MORNING

For the passion of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the passion of the Spirit against the flesh—the two are at issue, so that you are not free to do as you please.

For in me (that is, in my flesh) no good dwells, I know; the wish is there, but not the power of doing what is right. I cordially agree with God's law, so far as my inner self is concerned, but then I find another law in my members which conflicts with the law of my mind and makes me a prisoner to sin's law that resides in my members.

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its emotions and passions. As we live by the Spirit, let us be guided by the Spirit.

Now the deeds of the flesh are quite obvious, such as sensuality, quarrels, jealousy, rivalry, envy, revelry, and the like; people who indulge in such practices will never inherit the Realm of God. But the harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, good temper, kindliness, generosity, fidelity, gentleness, self-control.

Work strenuously at your salvation with reverence and trembling, for it is God who in his goodwill enables you to will this and to achieve it.

EVENING

Humble folk shall find
new joy in the Eternal,
the poorest shall exult
in Israel's Majesty.

He was ill-treated, yet he bore it humbly.
Therefore shall he win victory,
bearing the great world's sins,
and interposing for rebellious men.

When Christ suffered for you he left you an example, and you must be following his footsteps. . . . He was reviled and he made no retort.

Remind them to be obedient, ready for any good work, conciliatory, displaying perfect gentleness to all men. For we ourselves once spent our days in malice and envy, we were hateful, and we hated one another. But the goodness and affection of God our Saviour appeared; and he saved us, not for anything we had done but from his own pity for us.

Blessed are the humble!
they will inherit the earth.

MORNING

So you are servant no longer but son.

I call you servants no longer, because a servant does not know what his master is doing: I have imparted to you all that I have learned from my Father I have chosen you, appointing you to go and bear fruit, fruit that lasts. This is what I command you, to love one another.

Think what a love the Father has for us, in letting us be called "children of God!" We are children of God now, beloved; what we are to be is not apparent yet, but we do know that when he appears we are to be like him—for we are to see him as he is. And everyone who rests this hope on him, purifies himself as He is pure.

For the sons of God are those who are guided by the Spirit of God.

The conqueror, he who till the end lays to heart the duties I enjoin, I will give him authority as I myself have received authority from my Father.

EVENING

As we have borne the likeness of material Man,
so we are to bear the likeness of the heavenly Man.

Since the children then share blood and flesh, he himself participated in their nature, so that by dying he might crush him who wields the power of death (that is to say, the devil) and release from thraldom those who lay under a life-long fear of death.

As we have died with Christ we shall also live with him; for we know that Christ never dies after his resurrection from the dead—death has no more hold over him; the death he died was for sin, once for all, but the life he lives is for God. So you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And when this mortal body has been invested with immortality, then the saying of Scripture will be realized,

Death is swallowed up in victory.
O Death, where is your victory?
O Death, where is your sting?

The victory is ours, thank God! He makes it ours by our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you live by the flesh, you are on the road to death; but if by the Spirit you put the actions of the body to death, you will live. For the sons of God are those who are guided by the Spirit of God.

MORNING

Your strength is quiet faith.

Leave it to the Eternal and be patient;
  fret not over the successful man,
who aims to slay the upright,
  and carries out his wicked plan.
Cease your anger, give up raging,
  fret not—it only leads to evil.

The little that a good man has
  is better than a godless man's great wealth.
Help comes from the Eternal to good men;
  he is their refuge in the evil hour:
the Eternal relieves them and rescues them,
  because they shelter beside him.

Martha was so busy attending to them that she grew worried; she came up and said, "Lord, is it all one to you that my sister has left me to do all the work alone? Come, tell her to lend me a hand." The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, Mary has chosen the best dish, and she is not to be dragged away from it."

He who has faith in me will never flinch.

EVENING

Our God has not forsaken us.

Joseph broke down in tears. Then his brothers went and fell down before him, saying, "See, we are your humble servants!" "Have no fear," said Joseph; "am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant to do me evil, but God meant good to come out of it, as is happening to-day."

In the days of his flesh, with bitter cries and tears, he offered prayers and supplications to Him who was able to save him from death; and he was heard, because of his godly fear. Thus, Son though he was, he learned by all he suffered how to obey, and by being thus perfected he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the ordeal that has come to test you, as though some foreign thing befell you. You are sharing what Christ suffered; so rejoice in it, that you may also rejoice and exult when his glory is revealed.

Can a woman forget her infant,
  forget to pity her babe?
Yet even were a mother to forget,
  never will I forget you.

Present suffering, I hold, is a mere nothing compared to the glory that we are to have revealed.

MORNING

Never envy a high-handed man
or choose his methods.

Six things the Eternal hates,
  ay, seven he loathes:
haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
  hands that shed innocent blood,
a mind with crafty plans,
  feet eager to go mischief-making,
a false witness who tells lies,
  and him who sows discord within his group.

The upright life is safe and sure,
  but crooked courses shall fare badly.
The talk of good men is a life-giving fountain:
  the talk of bad men overflows with harm.
Hatred stirs up strife:
  love draws a veil over all wrongdoing.

A false balance is loathsome to the Eternal,
  but a proper weight is his delight.

When pride comes, disgrace comes too:
  modest men show good sense.

The bad man's vaunted hope is lost.
When a good man dies, his hope is never lost.

EVENING

I will rejoice for ever,
  I will sing praise to Jacob's God,
for lopping the power of evil men,
  and rallying the power of the upright.

Jesus gave a loud cry and expired. Now when the army captain, who stood facing him, saw that he expired in this way, he said, "This man was certainly a son of God!"

Saul made havoc of the church by entering one house after another, dragging off men and women, and consigning them to prison.

Now those who were scattered went through the land preaching the gospel.

About midnight, as Paul and Silas were praying and singing to God, there was a great earthquake which shook the very foundations of the prison; the doors flew open and the fetters of all the prisoners were unfastened. The jailer was on the point of killing himself, supposing the prisoners had made their escape; but Paul shouted aloud, "Don't harm yourself, we are all here!" "Sirs," he said, "what must I do to be saved?" "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ," they said. And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all in his house.

MORNING

God's sacrifice is a soul with its evil crushed.

There was a woman in the town who was a sinner, and she brought an alabaster flask of perfume and stood behind him at his feet in tears; as her tears began to wet his feet, she wiped them with the hair of her head, pressed kisses on them, and anointed them with the perfume.

Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said, that "before the cock crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"; and though I am the foremost of sinners, I obtained mercy.

The pain God is allowed to guide ends in a saving repentance never to be regretted. See what this pain divine has done for you, how serious it has made you, how keen to clear yourselves.

He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

EVENING

I will instruct you and teach you
what is the road to take;
I will give you counsel,
O humble soul.

Kind and upright is the Eternal,
he teaches any who go astray,
guiding humble souls aright,
teaching humble souls his way;
kindly and faithfully he ever deals
with those who keep his compact and commands.

He let Moses see this purpose,
and Israel his methods.
Whoever reverences the Eternal, learns
what is the right course to take.

At that time Jesus spoke and said, "I praise thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding all this from the wise and learned and revealing it to the simple-minded."

Rely with all your heart on the Eternal,
and never lean on your own insight;
have mind of him wherever you may go,
and he will clear the road for you.

Thou wilt reveal the path to life,
to the full joy of thy presence,
to the bliss of being close to thee for ever.

MORNING

Whoever wants to be the great man among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of all.

A quarrel also rose among them as to which of them could be considered the greatest. But Jesus said to them,

"The kings of the Gentiles rule over them,
and their authorities take the name of 'Benefactor':
not so with you.
He who is greatest among you must be like the youngest,
and he who is chief like a servant.
I am among you as a servant."

Then the just will answer,

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you? or thirsty and gave you drink?
when did we see you a stranger and entertain you? or unclothed and clothed you?
when did we see you ill or in prison and visit you?"

The King will answer them, "I tell you truly, in so far as you did it to one of these my brothers, even to the least of them, you did it to me."

You were called to be free; only, do not make your freedom an opening for the flesh, but serve one another in love. For the entire Law is summed up in one word, in You must love your neighbour as yourself.

EVENING

For the bread of God is what comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

The devil said to him, "If you are God's son, tell this stone to become a loaf." Jesus replied to him, "It is written, Man is not to live on bread alone."

Do not be troubled, then, and cry, "What are we to eat?" or "what are we to drink?" or "how are we to be clothed?" (pagans make all that their aim in life) for your heavenly Father knows quite well you need all that. Seek God's Realm and his goodness, and all that will be yours over and above.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me will never be hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty again. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but they died; the bread that comes down from heaven is such that one eats of it and never dies. I am the living bread which has come down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and more, the bread that I will give is my flesh, given for the life of the world."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Give us more faith!"

MORNING

To reverence the Eternal is to hate evil:
pride, arrogance, an evil life,
and lying lips—I hate them.

Do you not know that a morsel of dough will leaven the whole lump? Clean out the old dough that you may be a fresh lump. So let us celebrate our festival with the unleavened bread of innocence and integrity.
No one can serve two masters:
either he will hate one and love the other,
or else he will stand by the one and despise the other—
you cannot serve both God and Mammon.

Woe to those who call good evil,
and call evil good,
who make out darkness to be light,
light to be darkness,
who make out bitter to be sweet,
sweet to be bitter!

May the God of peace consecrate you through and through! Spirit, soul, and body, may you be kept without break or blame till the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ! He who calls you is faithful, he will do this.

EVENING

The Lord declared,
"Your strength is quiet faith."

He said, "It is with the Realm of God as when a man has sown seed on earth; he sleeps at night and rises by day, and the seed sprouts and shoots up—he knows not how."

A strong, fierce wind tore the mountain, crashing the rocks before the Eternal; but the Eternal was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake, but the Eternal was not in the earthquake; after the earthquake a fire, but the Eternal was not in the fire; after the fire the breath of a light whisper. As soon as Elijah heard that, he wrapped his face in his mantle.

It is good to wait in silence
for the help of the Eternal;
it is good to bear without a word
the rebuke of the Eternal;
let a man sit alone in silence.

Lo, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sup with him, and he with me.

For it is by grace you have been saved as you had faith.

MORNING

Do not drop that confidence of yours; it carries with it a rich hope of reward.

Steady patience is what you need, so that after doing the will of God you may get what you have been promised.

Fear not, for I am with you,
I am your God, be not dismayed;
I will strengthen, I will support you,
I will uphold you with my trusty hand.

Greet it as pure joy, my brothers, when you come across any sort of trial, sure that the sterling temper of your faith produces endurance; only, let your endurance be a finished product, so that you may be finished and complete, with never a defect.

Therefore, with all this host of witnesses encircling us, we must strip off every handicap, strip off sin with its clinging folds, to run our appointed course with steadiness, our eyes fixed upon Jesus as the pioneer and the perfection of faith—upon Jesus who, in order to reach his own appointed joy, steadily endured the cross, thinking nothing of its shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EVENING

Bless the Eternal, O my soul,
remember all his benefits.

He took a loaf, and after the blessing he broke and gave it to them. He also took a cup and after thanking God he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to those who were reclining.

Anything God has created is good, and nothing is to be tabooed—provided it is eaten with thanksgiving, for then it is consecrated by God's word, by the prayer uttered over it.

Now one of them turned back when he saw he had been cured, glorifying God with a loud voice; he fell on his face at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. So Jesus said, "Were all the ten not cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was there no one to return and give glory to God except this foreigner?"

Praise the Lord heartily and render thanks to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ at all times and for all things.

MORNING

Aim at that consecration without which no one will ever see the Lord.

Contrive to make it your whole concern to furnish your faith with resolution, resolution with intelligence, intelligence with self-control, self-control with steadfastness, steadfastness with godliness, godliness with brotherliness, and brotherliness with Christian love.

For as these qualities exist and increase with you, they render you active and fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; whereas he who has not these by him is blind, short-sighted, oblivious that he has been cleansed from his erstwhile sins.

It is not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord!" who will get into the Realm of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me at that Day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? did we not cast out dæmons in your name? did we not perform many miracles in your name?" Then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from my presence, you workers of iniquity."

Anyone who does not possess the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him.

On the other hand, if Christ is within you, the spirit is living as the result of righteousness.

EVENING

They shall attack you, but they shall not overcome you, for I am with you (the Eternal promises) to succour you.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might; put on God's armour, so as to be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil. For we have to struggle, not with blood and flesh but with the angelic Rulers, the angelic Authorities, the potentates of the dark present, the spirit-forces of evil in the heavenly sphere. So take God's armour, that you may be able to make a stand upon the evil day and hold your ground by overcoming all the foe.

Fear not, for I am with you,
  I am your God, be not dismayed;
I will strengthen, I will support you,
  I will uphold you with my trusty hand.

You belong to God, and you have conquered all such, for He who is within you is greater than he who is in the world.

Be firm and brave, never be daunted or dismayed, for the Eternal your God is with you wherever you go.

MORNING

The Lord does not wish any to perish but all to betake them to repentance.

How often I would fain have gathered your children as a fowl gathers her brood under her wings! But you would not have it!

When he was in trouble, he besought the Eternal his God, and the Eternal listened to him, and answered his entreaty.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, he forgives our sins and cleanses us from all iniquity. If we say, "We have not sinned," we make him a liar and his word is not within us.

What father among you, if asked by his son for a loaf, will hand him a stone?
Well, if for all your evil you know to give your children what is good,
how much more will your Father give the holy Spirit from heaven to those who ask him?

Everyone who invokes the name of the Lord shall be saved.

The time has now come, God's reign is near: repent and believe in the gospel.

EVENING

This body may break up, but even then
my life shall have a sight of God.

For dust you are,
and you return to dust.

When the dust returns to earth once more,
the spirit [returns] to God who gave it.

We would like you, brothers, to understand about those who are asleep in death; you must not grieve for them, like the rest of men who have no hope. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then it follows that by means of Jesus God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

There is a spiritual body. Thus it is written,
"The first man, Adam, became an animate being,
the last Adam a life-giving Spirit."
For this perishing body must be invested with the imperishable, and this mortal body invested with immortality; then the saying of Scripture will be realized,
Death is swallowed up in victory.
O Death, where is your victory?
O Death, where is your sting?
The victory is ours, thank God! He makes it ours by our Lord Jesus Christ.
Well then, my beloved brothers, hold your ground, immovable; abound in work for the Lord at all times, for you may be sure that in the Lord your labour is never thrown away.

MORNING

The slight trouble of the passing hour results in a solid glory past all comparison, for those of us whose eyes are on the unseen, not the seen; for the seen is transient, the unseen eternal.

On every side I am harried but not hemmed in, perplexed but not despairing, persecuted but not abandoned, struck down but not destroyed.

Amid honour and dishonour, amid evil report and good report, an "impostor" but honest, "unknown" but well-known, dying but here I am alive, chastened but not killed, grieved but always glad, a "pauper" but the means of wealth to many, without a penny but possessed of all.

Wherever I go I am being killed in the body as Jesus was,
so that the life of Jesus may come out in my body:
every day of my life I am being given over to death for Jesus' sake,
so that the life of Jesus may come out within my mortal flesh.

I have learned how to be content wherever I am. I know how to live humbly; I also know how to live in prosperity. I have been initiated into the secret for all sorts and conditions of life, for plenty and for hunger, for prosperity and for privations; in Him who strengthens me, I am able for anything.

EVENING

At present we only see the baffling reflections in a mirror.

It is the plunderers who live unharmed
who make a god of their own power.

Thine eyes are too pure to rest on evil,
thou canst not look on at oppression.
Why then look on at ruthless men?
Why then be silent when the impious
are swallowing up the good?

The vision has its own appointed hour;
if it be long, then wait,
for it is sure.

You must not ignore this one fact, that with the Lord a single day is like a thousand years. The Lord is long-suffering for your sake, he does not wish any to perish but all to betake them to repentance.

We do not yet see all things controlled by man; what we do see is Jesus who has been crowned with glory and honour.

"Faith and hope and love last on, these three," but the greatest of all is love.

MORNING

To please and serve thee is my joy,
thy law lies deep within my heart.

The Eternal's law is a sound law,
reviving life;
the Eternal's is a trusty witness,
that instructs the open-minded;
the Eternal's orders are just,
a joy to the heart;
the Eternal's command is clear,
a light to the mind;
the Eternal's faith is a clean faith,
it will last for ever;
the Eternal's rulings are upright,
and altogether just—
more to be prized than gold,
than plenty of rare gold.

Never imagine I have come to destroy the Law or the prophets; I have not come to destroy but to fulfil. (I tell you truly, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a comma, will pass from the Law until it is all in force. Therefore

whoever relaxes a single one of these commands, were it even one of the least, and teaches men so,
he will be ranked least in the Realm of heaven;
but whoever obeys them and teaches them,
he will be ranked great in the Realm of heaven.)

EVENING

As heaven is higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my plans than your plans.

"For I keep in mind a purpose of weal, not of woe; pray to me, and I will answer you; seek me, and you shall find me; when you seek for me with all your heart, I will reveal myself to you," says the Eternal.

No one understands the thoughts of God,
except the Spirit of God.

Now we have received the Spirit—not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that comes from God, that we may understand what God bestows upon us.

The unspiritual man rejects these truths of the Spirit of God; they must be read with the spiritual eye.

Treat one another with the same spirit as you experience in Christ Jesus. Though he was divine by nature, he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant; he humbly stooped in his obedience even to die upon the cross. Therefore God conferred on him a Name above all names so that before the Name of Jesus every knee should bend, to the glory of God the Father.

MORNING

Rascals will run away, though none pursues them;
good men are as bold as lions.

Just then some Pharisees came up to tell him, "Get away from here, for Herod intends to kill you." "Go and tell that fox," he replied, "I cast out dæmons and perform cures to-day and to-morrow, and on the third day I complete my task!"

There is a God able to save us, and the God whom we serve, from the burning furnace and from your power, O king. But even if he does not, understand, we will not bow down before the golden image.

They were astonished to notice how outspoken Peter and John were, and they recognized them as having been companions of Jesus.

They ordered them not to speak or teach a single sentence about the Name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Decide for yourselves whether it is right before God to obey you rather than God: certainly we cannot give up speaking of what we have seen and heard."

EVENING

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

When evening came, when the sun set, they brought him all who were ill or possessed by dæmons—indeed the whole town was gathered at the door—and he cured many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many dæmons.

Never trouble about what you are to eat or drink in life,
nor about what you are to put on your body;
surely life means more than food,
surely the body means more than clothes!
Man is not to live on bread alone.
but on every word that issues from the mouth of God.

The Logos became flesh and tarried among us; we have seen his glory—glory such as an only son enjoys from his father—seen it to be full of grace and reality. We have all been receiving grace after grace from his fulness; while the Law was given through Moses, grace and reality are ours through Jesus.

He will baptize you with the holy Spirit.

On those who have accepted him, he has conferred the right of being children of God.

MORNING

The victory is ours, by our Lord Jesus Christ.

If God is for us, who can be against us? The God who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, surely He will give us everything besides! Who is to accuse the elect of God? When God acquits, who shall condemn?

Since the children then share blood and flesh, he himself participated in their nature, so that by dying he might crush him who wields the power of death (that is to say, the devil) and release from thraldom those who lay under a lifelong fear of death.

In all this we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

Hold your ground, tighten the belt of truth about your loins, wear integrity as your coat of mail, and have your feet shod with the stability of the gospel of peace; take faith as your shield, put on salvation as your helmet, and take the Spirit as your sword, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all manner of prayer and entreaty.

EVENING

Let all your anxieties fall upon him, for his great interest is in you.

Thou searchest me, Eternal One, thou knowest me,
  my very thoughts thou readest from afar;
thou art on every side, behind me and before.

Where could I go from thy Spirit,
  where could I flee from thy face?
If I darted swift to the dawn,
  to the verge of ocean afar,
thy hand even there would fall on me,
  thy right hand would reach me.

Kind and upright is the Eternal,
  he teaches any who go astray,
guiding humble souls aright.

Which of you can add an ell to his height by troubling about it?
  And why should you trouble over clothing?

If God so clothes the grass of the field which blooms to-day and is thrown to-morrow into the furnace, will not he much more clothe you? O men, how little you trust him!

Whom have I in heaven but thee?

MORNING

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord—blessed in resting from their toils; for what they have done goes with them.

Let us be eager then to enter that Rest. . . . For the Logos of God is a living thing, active and more cutting than any sword with double edge, penetrating to the very division of soul and spirit, joints and marrow—scrutinizing the very thoughts and conceptions of the heart. All things lie open before the eyes of him with whom we have to reckon.

Even we who have the Spirit sigh to ourselves as we wait for the redemption of the body that means our full sonship. We were saved with this hope in view. Now when an object of hope is seen, there is no further need to hope. Who ever hopes for what he sees already? But if we hope for something that we do not see, we wait for it patiently.

Jesus said, "I am myself resurrection and life:
he who believes in me will live even if he dies,
and no one who lives and believes in me will ever die."

EVENING

The Eternal is gracious and pitiful.

Ours is no high priest who cannot have sympathy with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every respect like ourselves, yet without sinning. So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence.

Some lay in darkness and in gloom,
because they had rebelled at God's commands;
they cried to the Eternal in their need,
to save them from their evil plight;
he took them from the darkness and the gloom,
he snapped their chains.

Some, weakened by their sinful ways,
were sick and suffering through evildoing;
they had a loathing for all food,
were on the verge of death;
they cried to the Eternal in their need,
to save them from their evil plight;
he sent his word to heal them and preserve their life.

Faithfully he deals and justly,
trustworthy are all his precepts;
his orders are enacted for all time,
issued in faithfulness and justice;
he has sent his people freedom.

Thou art a God pitiful and gracious,
slow to be angry, rich in love and loyalty;
turn and have pity upon me, O Lord,
grant thy strength to thy servant.

MORNING

My rescue comes from him alone.

The Eternal's love is lasting,
and will never fail.
"Fresh every morning is thy kindness,
great is thy faithfulness!"
It is good to wait in silence
for the help of the Eternal.

Let no one who is tried by temptation say, "My temptation comes from God." Everyone is tempted as he is beguiled and allured by his own desire; all our endowments are faultless, descending from above, from the Father of the heavenly lights, who knows no change of rising and setting, who casts no shadow on the earth.

Your faults have made you fall.
Come back to the Eternal,
saying to him:
"All our iniquities forgive,
and grant us now thy favour;
for in thee the forlorn finds pity."

No temptation has waylaid you that is beyond man's power; trust God, he will never let you be tempted beyond what you can stand, but, when temptation comes, he will provide the way out of it.

EVENING

Happy the man who reverences the Eternal,
who finds rich joy in his commands!

The first thing in knowledge is reverence for the Eternal:
it is sound sense for everyone.

We had fathers of our flesh to discipline us, and we yielded to them! Shall we not far more submit to the Father of our spirits, and so live?

The Eternal turns his eyes towards good men,
his ears are open to their cry;
when they cry, the Eternal listens,
he rescues them from all their troubles.

Who will wrong you if you have a passion for goodness? Even supposing you have to suffer for the sake of what is right, still you are blessed. Have no fear of their threats, never let that trouble you, but reverence Christ as Lord in your own hearts.

Therefore let us render thanks that we receive a realm unshaken; and in this way let us worship God acceptably—though with godly fear and awe, for our God is indeed a consuming fire.

MORNING

For we have all been receiving grace after grace from his fulness.

The sons of God are guided by the Spirit of God. You have received the Spirit of sonship. And when we cry, "Abba! Father!", it is this Spirit testifying along with our own spirit that we are children of God; and if children, heirs as well, heirs of God, heirs along with Christ—for we share his sufferings in order to share his glory.

For if the trespass allowed death to reign, much more shall those who receive the overflowing grace and free gift of righteousness reign in life, through Jesus Christ.

Live a life worthy of your calling, with perfect modesty and gentleness, showing forbearance to one another patiently, zealous in love to preserve the unity of the Spirit by binding peace upon yourselves.

Each one of us is granted his own grace, as determined by the full measure of Christ's gift.

Our talents differ with the grace that is given us; if the talent is that of prophecy, let us employ it in proportion to our faith; if it is practical service, let us mind our service; the teacher must mind his teaching, the speaker his words of counsel; the contributor must be liberal, the superintendent must be in earnest, the sick visitor must be cheerful. Let your love be a real thing, with a loathing for evil and a bent for what is good.

EVENING

O Death, where is your victory?
O Death, where is your sting?

The victory is ours, thank God! He makes it ours by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Once for all, at the end of the world, he has appeared with his self-sacrifice to abolish sin.

Since the children then share blood and flesh, he himself participated in their nature, so that by dying he might crush him who wields the power of death (that is to say, the devil) and release from thraldom those who lay under a lifelong fear of death.

In my Father's house there are many abodes; were it not so, would I have told you I was going to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, so that you may be where I am.

The training of the body is of some small service, but religion is of service in all directions; it contains the promise of life both for the present and for the future.

MORNING

Bless the Eternal, O my soul, remember all his benefits.

All thy creatures look to thee,
for their food in season due,
and from thine open hand
they feast upon thy favour.

He waters the hills from his high chambers,
and rains abundantly upon the land,
till grass grows for the cattle,
and fodder for the beasts that serve mankind;
that he may bring food from the earth,
bread to sustain his strength.

God's gifts come to his loved ones, as they sleep.

It is he who gives life and breath and all things to all men.

Beware lest, when you have eaten and satisfied yourselves, when you have built grand houses to live in, and all you possess grows larger, then you turn proud and forget the Eternal your God.

Beware of saying to yourselves, "My own power and the strength of my own hand have won me all this wealth." You must remember the Eternal your God, for it is he who gives you the power of gaining wealth.

EVENING

The God of peace consecrate you through and through!

You must be sacred for me, for I the Eternal am sacred, and I have made you mine.

He said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross day after day, and so follow me;
for whoever wants to save his life will lose it,
and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it."

For the grace of God has appeared to save all men, and it schools us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions and to live a life of self-mastery, of integrity, and of godliness in this present world.

Jesus, lifting his eyes to heaven, said: "I pray not that thou wilt take them out of the world, but that thou wilt keep them from the evil One. Consecrate them by the truth: thy word is truth." For their sake I consecrate myself.

Christ Jesus gave himself up for us to redeem us from all iniquity and secure himself a clean people, with a zest for good deeds.

You are consecrated, that you may proclaim the wondrous deeds of Him who has called you from darkness to his wonderful light.

MORNING

God judges the secret things of men by Jesus Christ.

There is no partiality about God.
All who sin outside the Law will perish outside the Law,
and all who sin under the Law will be condemned by the Law.
For it is not the hearers of the Law who are just in the eyes of God, it is those who obey the Law who will be acquitted.

Whoever obeys the whole of the Law and only makes a single slip, is guilty of everything. He who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not kill. Now if you do not commit adultery but if you kill, you have transgressed the Law. Speak, act, as those who are to be judged by the law of freedom.

The Logos of God is a living thing, active and more cutting than any sword with double edge, penetrating to the very division of soul and spirit, joints and marrow—scrutinizing the very thoughts and conceptions of the heart. And no created thing is hidden from him; all things lie open and exposed before the eyes of him with whom we have to reckon.

Test me, O thou Eternal, try me,
prove me, in heart and mind.

EVENING

The Lord Jesus Christ will transform the body that belongs to our low estate till it resembles the body of his Glory, by the same power that enables him to make everything subject to himself.

In their presence he was transfigured, his face shone like the sun, and his clothes turned white as light.

Though the doors were closed, Jesus entered and stood among them, saying, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Look at my hands, put your finger here; and put your hand here into my side; be no more unbelieving but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "You believe because you have seen me? Blessed be those who believe though they have never seen me."

You who participate in a heavenly calling, look at Jesus then, at the apostle and high priest of our confession.

We are children of God now, beloved; what we are to be is not apparent yet, but we do know that when he appears we are to be like him—for we are to see him as he is.

MORNING

My spirit has joy in God my Saviour.

The people who were dwelling in the darkness
  have now seen a great light;
those who were living in a land of shadows,
  upon them light has shone.
Thou hast richly given them gladness,
  and an ample joy.

For a child has been born to us,
  and this the title that he bears—
"A wonder of a counsellor,
  a divine hero,
a father for all time,
  a peaceful prince!"
Great is his authority,
  endless is his peace.

Good news of a great joy that is meant for all the People. To-day you have a saviour born in the town of David, the Lord messiah.

Glory to God in high heaven,
and peace on earth for men whom he favours!
He has raised up a strong saviour for us
  in the house of his servant David—
as he promised of old by the lips of his prophets.

May the Lord of peace himself grant you peace continually.

EVENING

It is in Christ that the entire Fulness of deity has settled bodily.

The Logos was with God,
the Logos was divine.
He was with God in the very beginning.

It was by him that all things were created, both the seen and the unseen; he is prior to all, and all coheres in him.

Therefore God raised him high and conferred on him a Name above all names, so that before the Name of Jesus every knee should bend in heaven, on earth.

The Father loves the Son and has given him control over everything. He who believes in the Son has eternal life.

On those who have accepted him, he has conferred the right of being children of God.

We have all been receiving grace after grace from his fulness; while the Law was given through Moses, grace and reality are ours through Jesus Christ.

MORNING

There is a new creation whenever a man comes to be in Christ; what is old is gone, the new has come.

Anyone who does not possess the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. If Christ is within you, the spirit is living as the result of righteousness.

You are born anew of immortal, not of mortal seed, by the living, lasting word of God.

So off with all malice, all guile and insincerity and envy and slander of every kind! Like newly born children, thirst for the pure, spiritual milk to make you grow up to salvation.

Even sinful men love those who love them.
If you help only those who help you, what merit is that to you?
If you only lend to those from whom you hope to get something, what credit is that to you?
No, you must love your enemies and help them.

Never let evil get the better of you; get the better of evil by doing good.

EVENING

Your strength [shall] last like your days!

Listen to me, O household of Jacob,
whom I have carried since your mother bore you;
even to your old age I will be the same,
when you are grey-haired, still I will sustain you;
I have borne the burden, I will carry it,
yes, I will carry you and save you.

Look at the wild birds;
they sow not, they reap not, they gather nothing in granaries,
and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not worth more than birds?
So never be troubled about to-morrow;
to-morrow will take care of itself.
The day's own trouble is enough for the day.

The Lord told me, "It is enough for you to have my grace: it is in weakness that my power is fully felt." It makes me content, for Christ's sake, with weakness, insults, trouble, persecution, and calamity; for I am strong just when I am weak.

In Him who strengthens me, I am able for anything.

MORNING

We live and move, not by the flesh but by the Spirit.

Now the deeds of the flesh are quite obvious, such as sexual vice, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, magic, quarrels, dissension, jealousy, temper, rivalry, factions, party-spirit, envy, murder, drinking bouts, revelry, and the like; I tell you beforehand as I have told you already, that people who indulge in such practices will never inherit the Realm of God. But the harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, good temper, kindliness, generosity, fidelity, gentleness, self-control:—there is no law against those who practise such things. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its emotions and passions.

For the grace of God has appeared to save all men, and it schools us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions and to live a life of self-mastery, of integrity, and of godliness in this present world, awaiting the blessed hope of the appearance of the Glory of the great God and of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us to redeem us from all iniquity and secure himself a clean people, with a zest for good deeds.

EVENING

The Eternal our champion.

Thou art my hope, O Lord,
I have trusted thee from youth,
I have leant on thee from my birth.

Thou didst found the earth at the beginning, O Lord,
and the heavens are the work of thy hands;
they shall perish, but thou remainest
they shall all be worn out like a garment,
thou wilt roll them up like a mantle and they shall be changed,
but thou art the same,
and thy years never fail.

All day long I will be telling
of thy victorious and faithful aid,
though never can I tell it to the full;
I will recite the great deeds of the Lord,
and praise thy faithful aid.

Loud shall be my joy in the Eternal,
in my God will I rejoice;
he has clothed me with victory,
arrayed me in a robe of triumph.

For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, no powers of the Height or of the Depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to part us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

MORNING

We triumph even in our troubles, knowing that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

Blessed are you when men denounce you and persecute you and utter all manner of evil against you for my sake; rejoice and exult in it, for your reward is rich in heaven; that is how they persecuted the prophets before you.

Compare him who steadily endured hostility from sinful men.

Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Never revenge yourselves. No, if your enemy is hungry, feed him,
if he is thirsty, give him drink;
for in this way you will make him
feel a burning sense of shame.
Never let evil get the better of you; get the better of evil by doing good.

Amid a severe ordeal of trouble, their overflowing joy and their deep poverty together have poured out a flood of rich generosity.

Inasmuch as his power divine has bestowed on us every requisite for life and piety by the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, do you contrive to make it your whole concern to furnish your faith with resolution, resolution with intelligence, intelligence with self-control, self-control with steadfastness, steadfastness with piety, piety with brotherliness, brotherliness with Christian love.

EVENING

We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

The weapons of my warfare are not weapons of the flesh, but divinely strong —I take every project prisoner to make it obey Christ.

Left to myself, I serve the law of sin. Who will rescue me? God will! Thanks be to him through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Thus there is no doom now for those who are in Christ Jesus; the law of the Spirit brings the life which is in Christ Jesus, and that law has set me free from the law of sin and death.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might; put on God's armour, so as to be able to stand. For we have to struggle, not with blood and flesh but with the potentates of the dark present, the spirit-forces of evil. So take God's armour, that you may be able to make a stand upon the evil day and hold your ground by overcoming all the foe.

Fight in the good fight of the faith, secure that life eternal to which you were called.

MORNING

Revere the Eternal and draw back from sin.

Reverence for the Eternal is the first thing in knowledge,
but the impious scorn sagacity and intelligence.

Never let kindness and loyalty go,
tie them fast round your neck
so you shall have goodwill and good repute
with God and man alike.

Never refuse help to your neighbour,
when you can render it;
never say to him, "Go, and come again,
I will have it to-morrow for you"—
when you have it beside you!
Never plot mischief against your neighbour
as he lives near you unsuspecting.

Bar out all talk of evil,
and banish wayward words;
let your eyes look straight ahead,
gaze right in front of you;
keep a clear path before you,
and ever make your footing firm;
never turn to right or left,
draw back from a wrong step.

For the Eternal loathes an evil man,
the honest are the Eternal's friends.

EVENING

God loved the world so dearly.

The Eternal sent this message to Jonah: "Go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim there what I tell you."

Blessed be my people Egypt, Assyria whom I have made, and Israel my own possession!

There is no room for Jew or Greek, there is no room for slave or freeman, there is no room for male and female; you are all one in Christ Jesus.

All nations he has created from a common origin, to dwell all over the earth.

Many will come from east and west and take their places beside Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Realm of heaven.

Then Jesus came forward to them and said, "Full authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth; go and make disciples of all nations."

MORNING

I have to lead my life in faith, without seeing him.

Whoever reverences the Eternal, learns
what is the right course to take;
his compact is to instruct them.

Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see. It was for this that the men of old won their record. It is by faith we understand that the world was fashioned by the word of God, and thus the visible was made out of the invisible.

We love, because He loved us first.

You have heard in him the message of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, and in him you also by your faith have been stamped with the seal of the long-promised holy Spirit.

You never knew him, but you love him; for the moment you do not see him, but you believe in him and you will thrill with an unspeakable and glorious joy to obtain the outcome of your faith in the salvation of your souls.

Blessed be those who believe though they have never seen me.

EVENING

Grace . . . in weakness.

He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all the invalids—that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled, He took away our sicknesses and he removed our diseases.

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and thy dominion lasts from age to age.
The Eternal is true to all his promises,
and kind in all his dealings;
the Eternal holds up any who are falling,
and raises all who are bowed down.
As a father pities his children
so the Eternal pities his worshippers;
he knows what we are made of,
he remembers we are dust.

"It is enough for you to have my grace: it is in weakness that [my] power is fully felt." So I am proud to boast of all my weakness, and thus to have the power of Christ resting on my life.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope, graciously encourage your hearts and strengthen them for all good in deed and word.

MORNING

Well then, my beloved brothers, hold your ground, immovable; abound in work for the Lord at all times, for you may be sure that in the Lord your labour is never thrown away.

Lead your life in him, fixed and founded in him, confirmed in the faith as you have been taught it, and overflowing with thankfulness to God.

Since you have been raised with Christ, aim at what is above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; mind what is above, not what is on earth, for you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

He who sows for his flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, and he who sows for the Spirit will reap life eternal from the Spirit. Never let us grow tired of doing what is right, for if we do not faint we shall reap our harvest at the opportune season. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men and in particular to the household of the faith.

He will be saved who holds out to the very end.

EVENING

Leave all to the Eternal, who loves you.

Even to your old age I will be the same,
when you are grey-haired, still I will sustain you;
I have borne the burden, I will carry it,
yes, I will carry you and save you.

Let all your anxieties fall upon him, for his great interest is in you.

He never faints, never is weary, his insight is unsearchable.
Young men may faint and weary, the strong youths may give way, but those who wait for the Eternal shall renew their strength,
they put out wings like eagles,
they run and never weary,
they walk and never faint.

Hence I never lose heart; though my outward man decays, my inner man is renewed day after day. The slight trouble of the passing hour results in a solid glory past all comparison, for those of us whose eyes are on the unseen, not on the seen; for the seen is transient, the unseen eternal.

God is a shelter and stronghold for us, we shall find him very near.

Notes

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1. Phil. 3:12
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